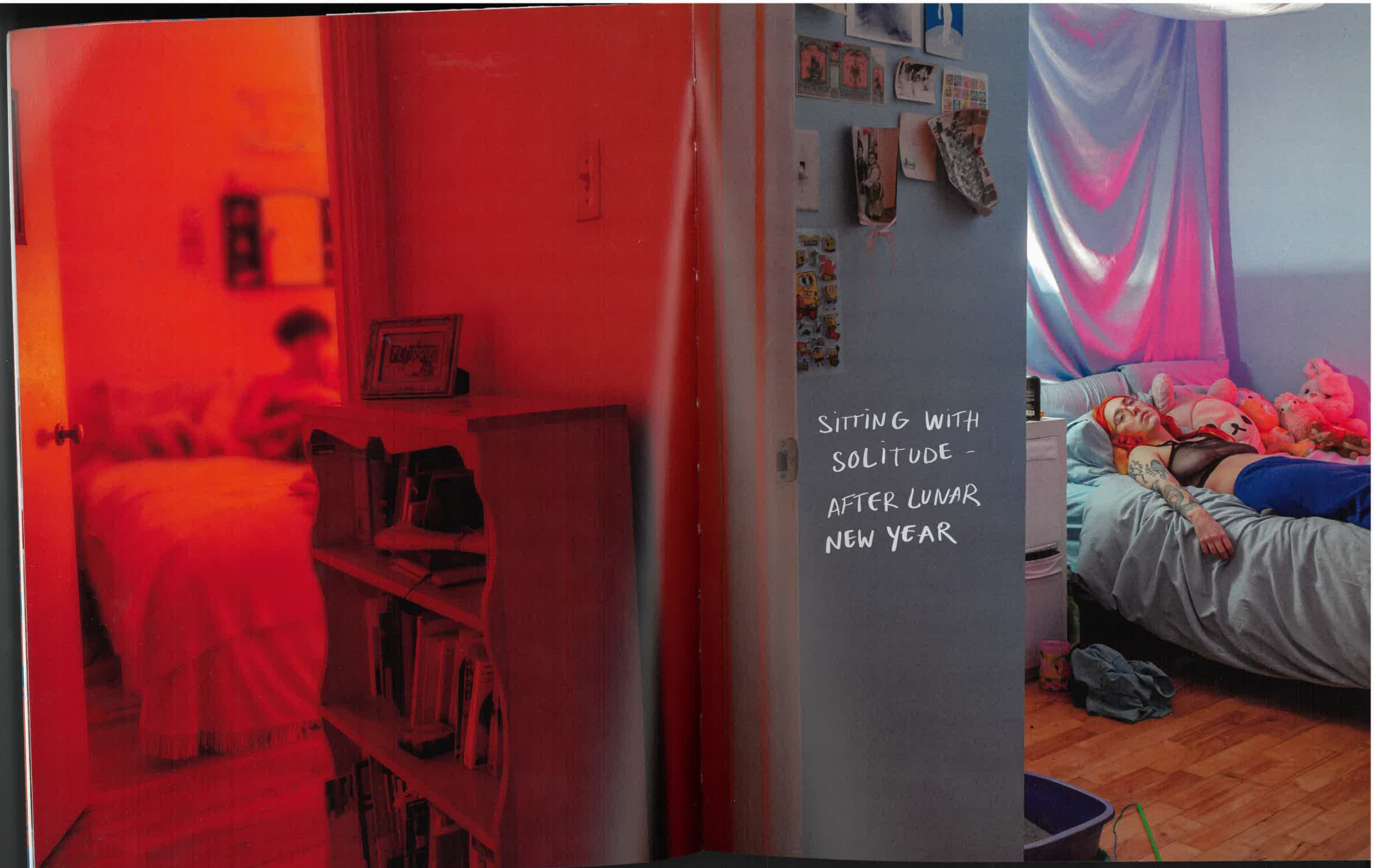
♡ PUBERTY

THIS STORY
IS MY OFFERING
TO YOU-
I AM SO GRATEFUL
FOR YOUR LOVE
& ENERGY WHILE
READING IT ♡
iHOPE IT IGNITES
A LIGHT OF POSITIVITY
IN YOUR HEART
XO LARRY

PAINT ME like
one of your
PRE-RAPHAELITE
BOY-
GIRLS

WINTER 2019


SITTING WITH
SOLITUDE -
AFTER LUNAR
NEW YEAR

DAILY STILL LIFE

DOLLHOUSE IN A BLIZZARD

READING
"GENERATION
WEALTH"
→ excellent book
by LAUREN GREENFIELD

in bed with my cat
VASHTI

MY BEST FRIEND
LUCKY

PERFORMING
WITH HIS BAND
LEASH AGGRESSION
@ NOT YR BABE
FEST

TRIXIE'S
22ND BIRTHDAY

TRIXIE IS
LUCKY'S SIBLING
→THEY ARE BOTH FAMILY
TO ME

PINK GLOW WELCOMING ME HOME

BEDROOM WINDOW
AFTER A SNOW STORM

JIM CARREY
THE MASK
FROM ZERO TO HERO
Bentyne
TRIXIE'S 22nd
BIRTHDAY

RAMEN & DRAG RACE with VASHTI

♡

MY FAVORITE PEANUT BUTTER RAMEN

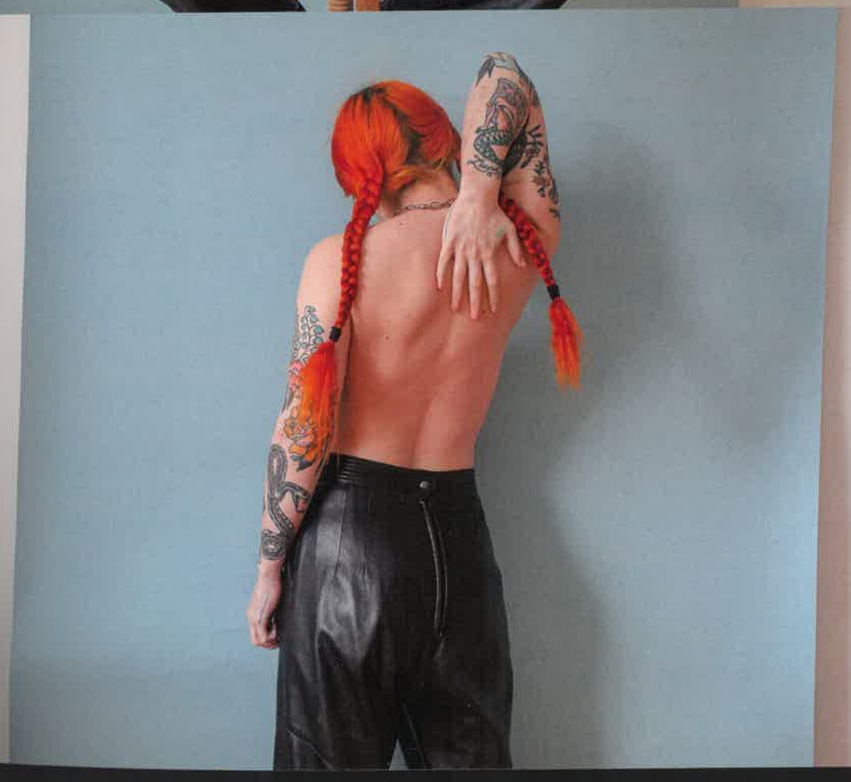
1. BRING WATER TO BOIL IN A SMALL/MEDIUM BOWL.
2. ONCE BOILING, ADD A GENEROUS SPOONFUL(S) OF PEANUT BUTTER. STIR UNTIL THE MIXTURE STARTS FOAMING/GETTING FLUFFY - THEN TURN HEAT DOWN TO LOW.
3. STIR IN SEASONINGS TO TASTE. I LIKE TO ADD GARLIC & GINGER PASTE, CHILI OIL, AND LEMON/LIME JUICE. + ADD PACKET SEASONING.
4. ADD NOODLES + STIR
5. ONCE NOODLES HAVE SOFTENED, CRACK EGG + LET IT COOK IN THE HOT BROTH (OPTIONAL)
6. ADD IN GREEN ONIONS + VEGGIES (WHATEVER'S AROUND!)
7. COVER & LET SIMMER FOR 5-10 MINUTES
8. GENTLY MIX AND TRANSFER TO YOUR BOWL(S)
9. TOP WITH GRATED OR SLICED CHEESE & SESAME SEEDS
10. COVER BOWL WITH A PLATE TO ALLOW THE CHEESE TO MELT ~5 MINUTES

♡ ENJOY ♡

PLAYING DRESS-UP
IN MY FRIEND BILLY'S ROOM

I took my first dose of testosterone on April 20, 2018, at my doctor's office in Côte-des-Neiges. I got a referral from Lucky, who had been on testosterone for a year. The whole thing felt pretty mundane.

I walked home through the park and felt a hot flash come in- I could kind of imagine what ~~they~~ it might feel like from witnessing my mom go through menopause years before.



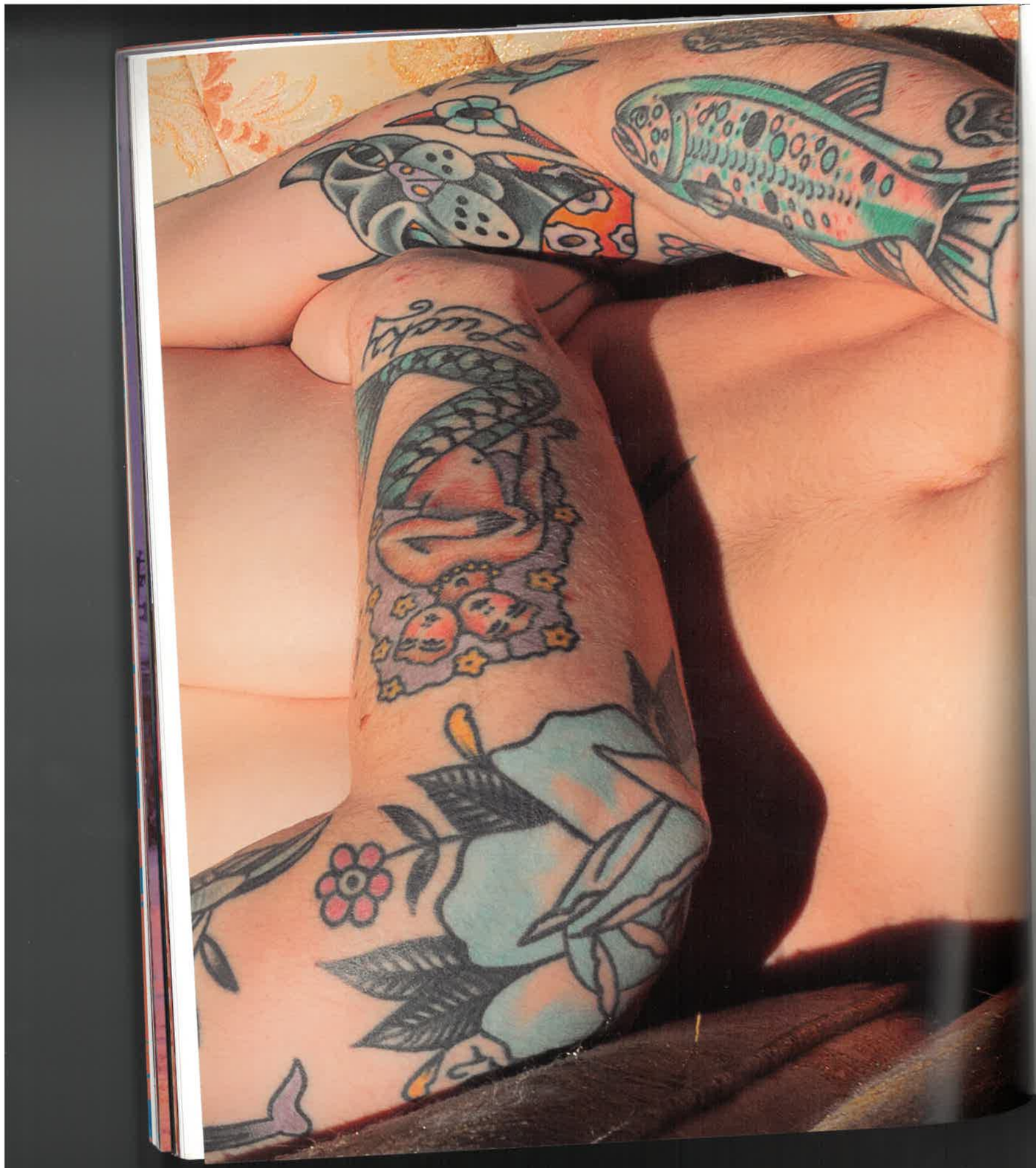
On the day of that first dose I thought - I died a little today. ~~I thought~~ that's how people in my life ~~would~~ will see this.

I thought I'd be a whole different person.

if anything,
I just slowly sink into who I am a bit more each day.

SELF-PORTRAIT

→ WAKING UP
FROM AN
AFTERNOON
♡NAP♡



I get ~~tattoos~~
to mark chapters
in my life, ~~like~~
an ongoing storybook.
/
living

JUST WOKE UP!

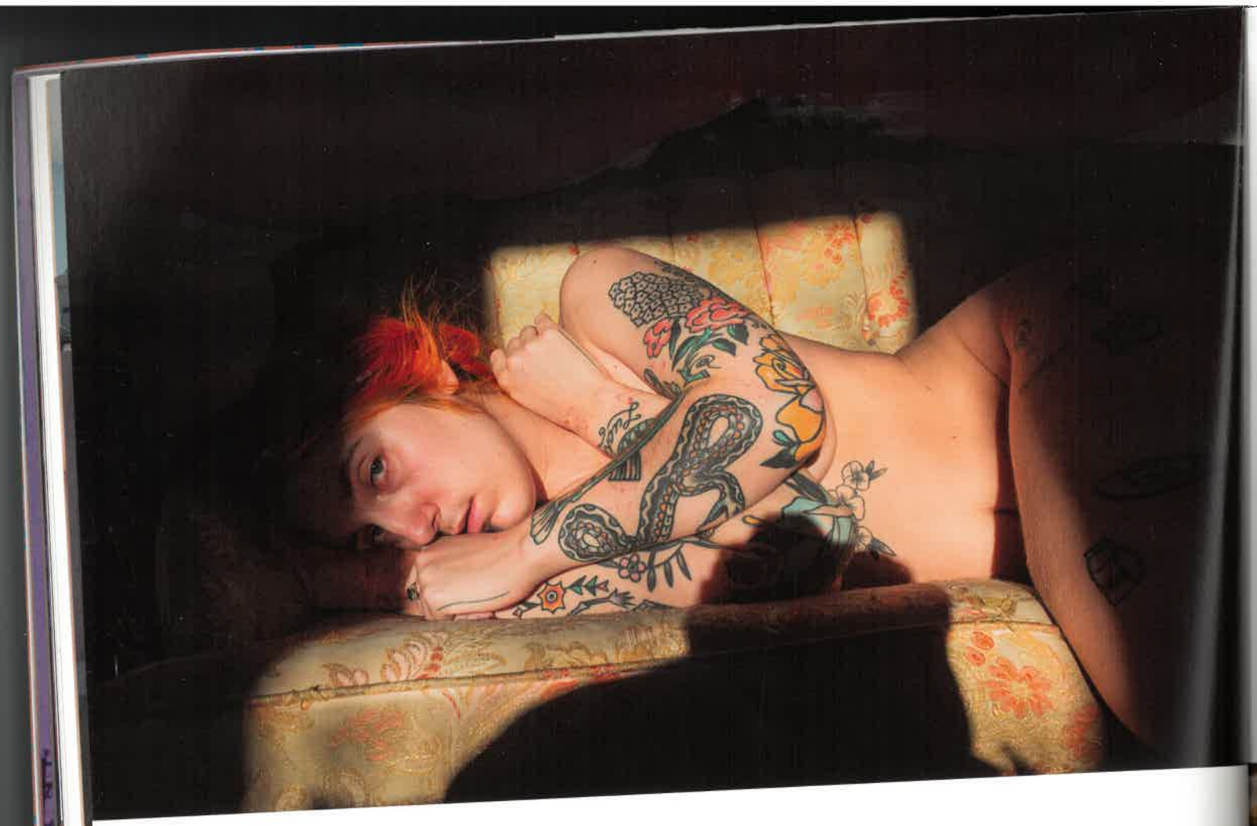
STRUGGLING TO GET GOING

MORNING STRETCH ROUTINE

PREPARING MY TESTOSTERONE SHOT → VASHTI IS SUPERVISING OVER MY SHOULDERS

MORNING TEA

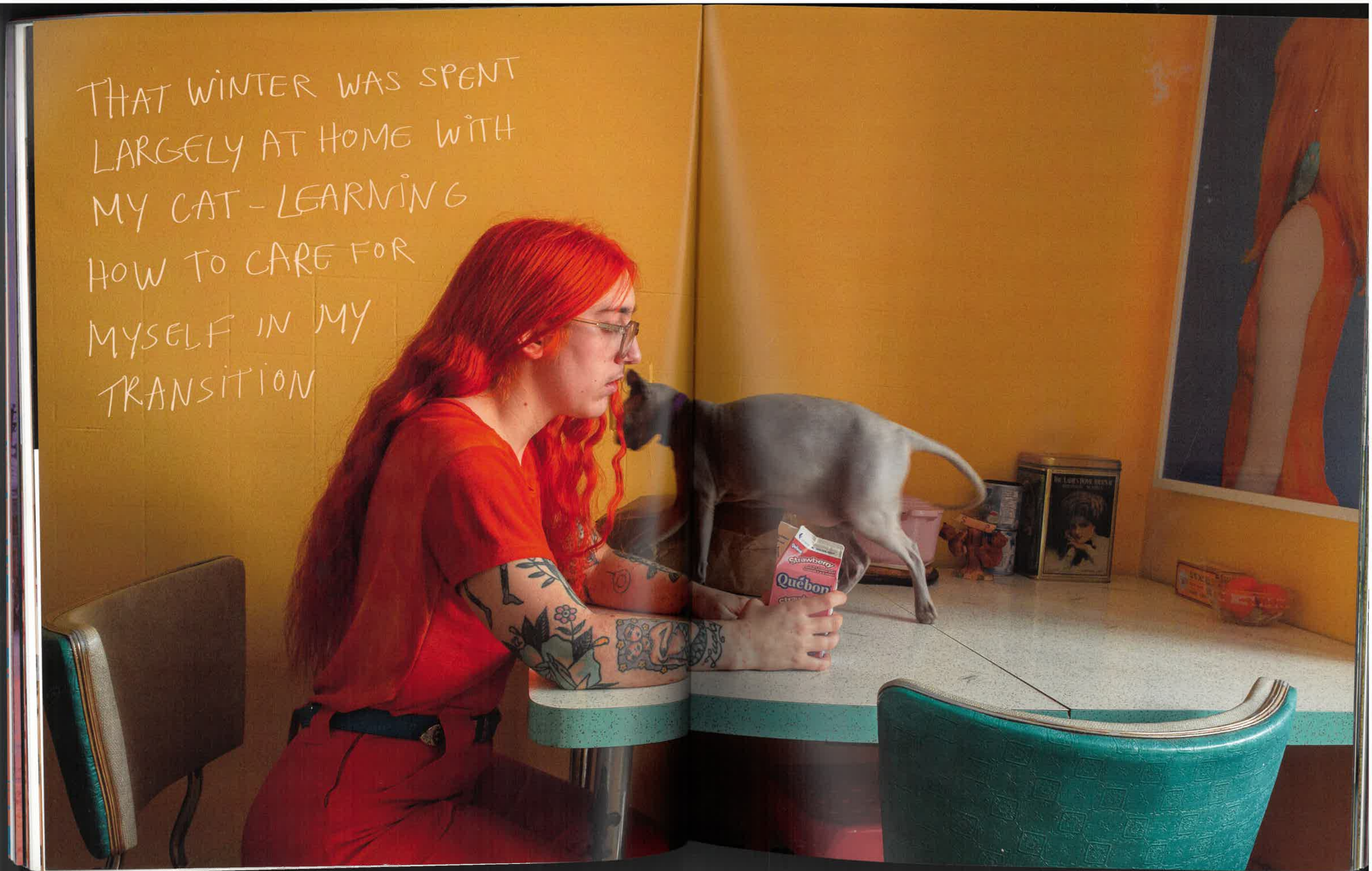
& TESTOSTERONE



SELF-PORTRAIT
IN THE AFTERNOON LIGHT

VASHTI NAPPING
WHILE I PREPARE
MY T SHOT

THAT WINTER WAS SPENT
LARGELY AT HOME WITH
MY CAT - LEARNING
HOW TO CARE FOR
MYSELF IN MY
TRANSITION

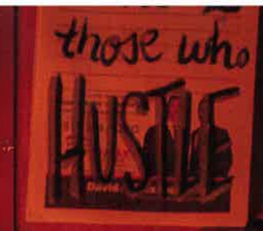


SPRING FLOWERS
&
NIGHT SKY

SPRING
2019

MAY 22

CELEBRATING
MY 26th BIRTHDAY
AT NINA'S APARTMENT -
WE HAD BEEN DATING
FOR A MONTH ♡



SELF-PORTRAIT
APRIL 2019
I WENT TO PARIS
TO GIVE A TALK
ON MY WORK AT
A UNIVERSITY

I WENT TO VERSAILLES
ON MY ONE-YEAR
TESTOSTERONE
ANNIVERSARY

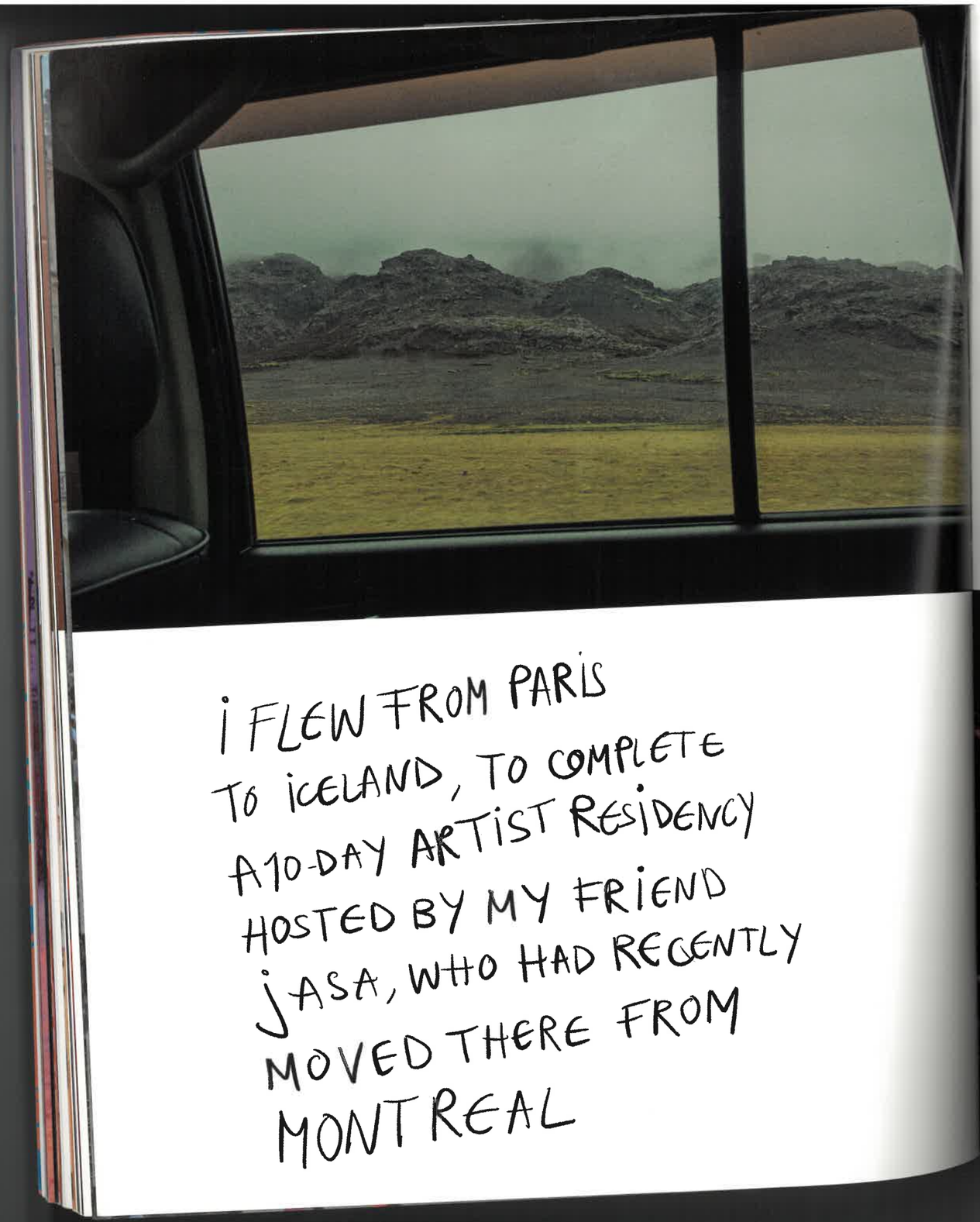
THIS WAS MARIE-ANTOINETTE'S
BEDROOM-I THINK ABOUT
HER OFTEN & WHAT LIVING
THERE WAS LIKE, THE SPECTACLE
OF IT ALL

I STAYED AT
A FRIEND OF A FRIEND'S
STUDIO APARTMENT
FOR A FEW DAYS
AFTER THE UNI CONFERENCE

ICELANDIC
CORNER STORE

BLUE HOUR
IN PARIS

VIEW OF VERSAILLES
LIKE A LIVING PAINTING



I FLEW FROM PARIS
TO ICELAND, TO COMPLETE
A 10-DAY ARTIST RESIDENCY
HOSTED BY MY FRIEND
JASA, WHO HAD RECENTLY
MOVED THERE FROM
MONTREAL

JASA & HER PARTNER
KRISTJAN DROVE ME
AROUND AND HELPED
ME MAKE SELF-PORTRAITS

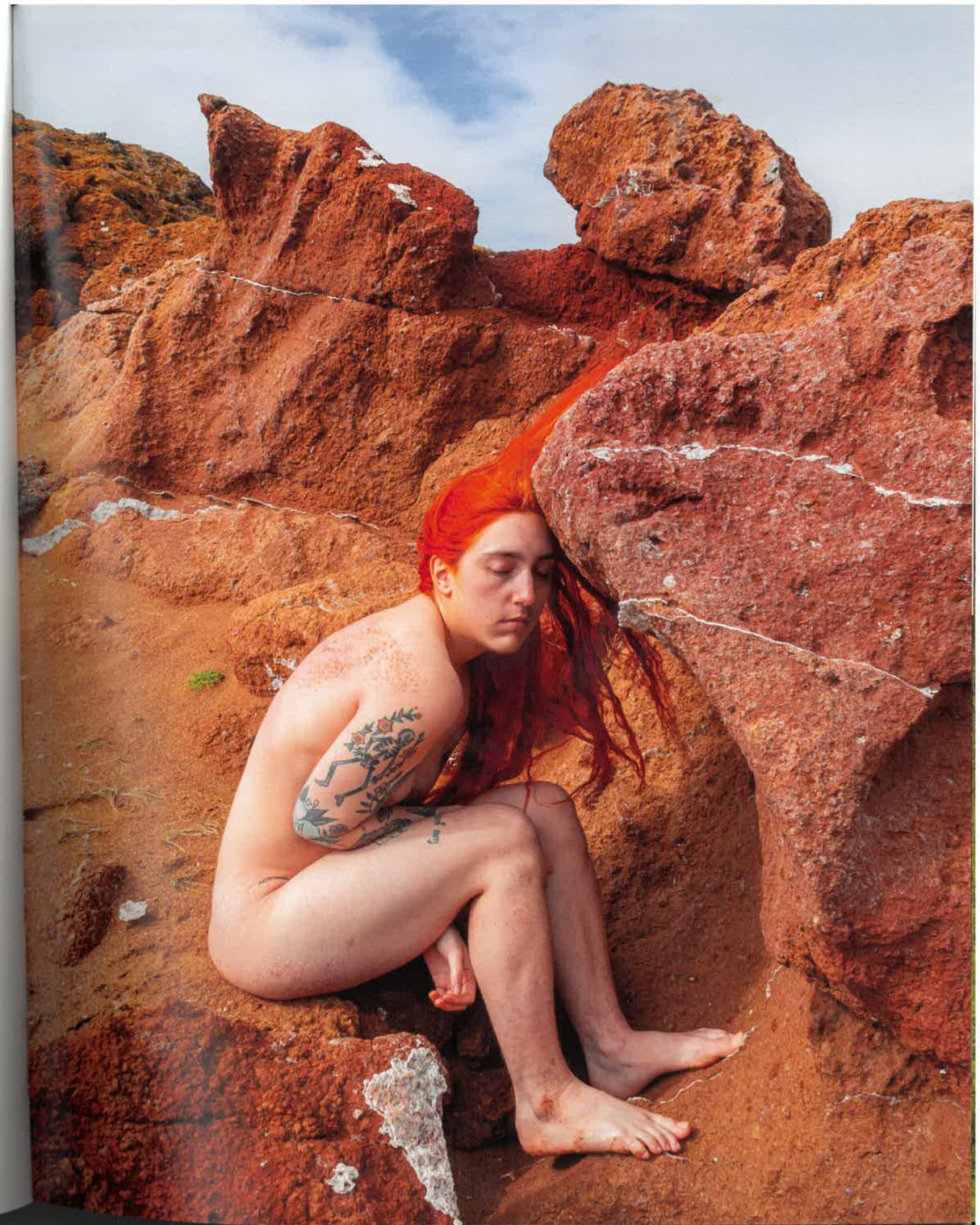
WE DROVE 130 KM OUT OF REYKJAVIK
TO KRISTJAN'S COTTAGE IN WEST ICELAND

& FOUND THIS ABANDONED
GEOTHERMAL POOL -
THE WATER WAS STILL
WARM

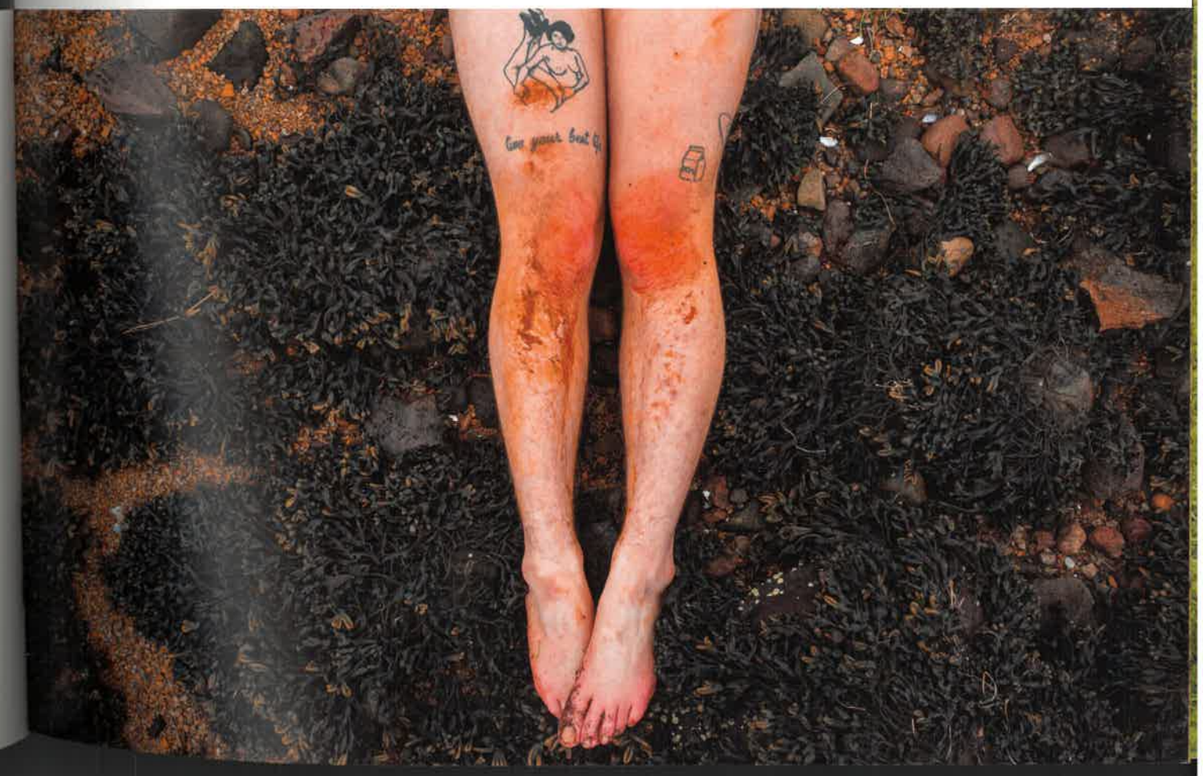
JASA TOLD ME ABOUT HULDUFÓLK, ICELANDIC SPIRITS THAT CO-EXIST IN THE LANDSCAPE. SHE PAINTED MY FACE AND TOOK ME TO AN ELF ROCK

TELL ME ABOUT
YOUR FAVORITE
PLACE IN THE WORLD

I THOUGHT A LOT
ABOUT TRANS BODIES
IN NATURE /
AS NATURAL BODIES



LETTING GO
OF THE ILLUSION
OF THE SELF
FOR A MOMENT



WE STUMBLED UPON
THIS MASSIVE SULFURIC
ROCK FORMATION,
JUST OFF THE HIGHWAY

CENTURIES-OLD MOSS
COVERING LAVA STONES

SINKING
IN

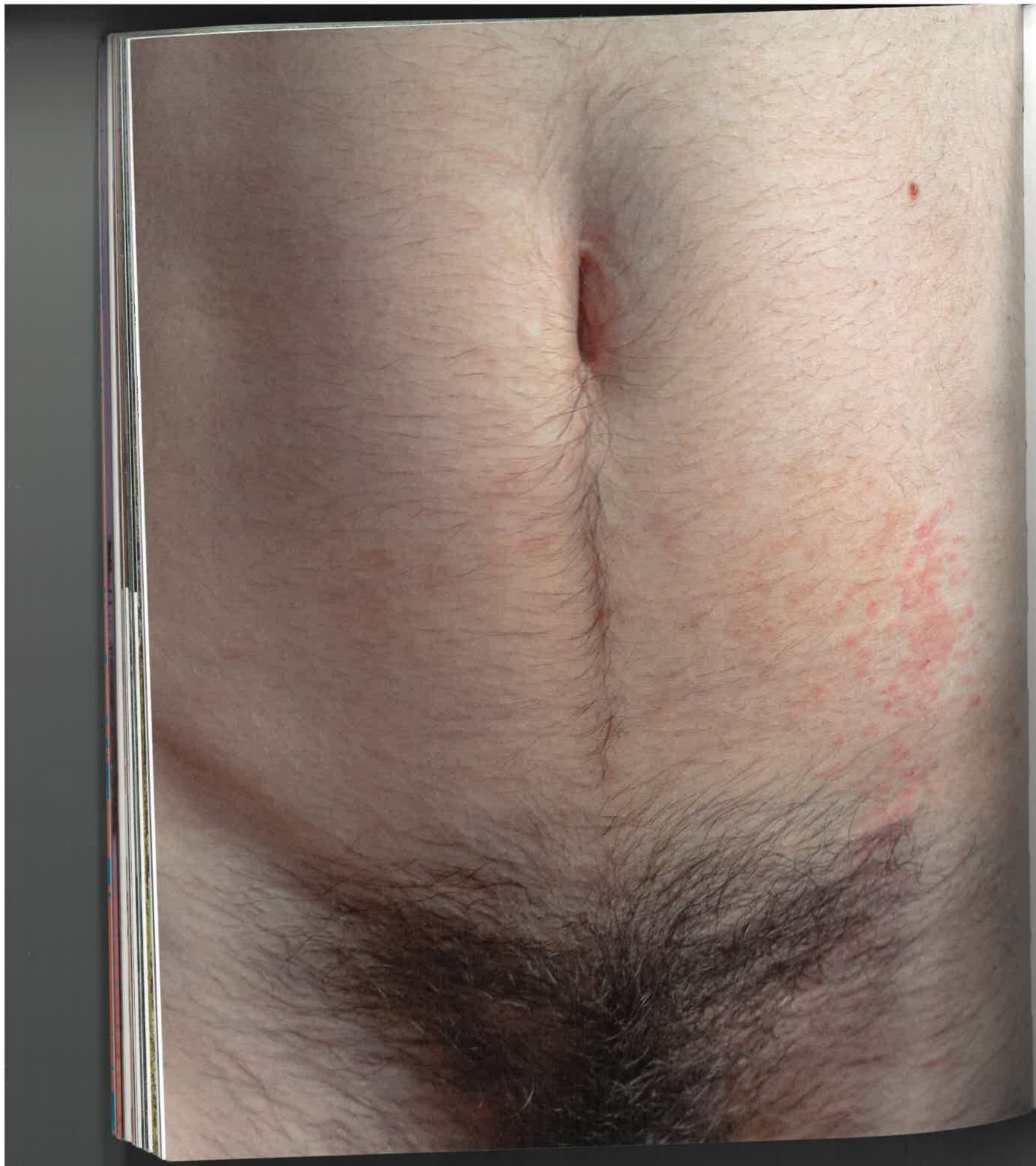
SUMMER
2019

SELF-PORTRAIT WITH BRANCHES
FROM MY PARENTS' APPLE TREE

LOTS OF PIMPLES

STARTING TO GROW FACIAL HAIR

IT FELT LIKE A BIG DEAL



I NEVER REALLY
UNDERSTOOD
THE BIG FEAR
AROUND BODY HAIR
~~I THINK~~ IT'S FUZZY
AND CUTE AND I
ALWAYS WANT(ED)
MORE

MY RIDE
OR DIE

I LOVE HER
SO MUCH

MORNING
IN BED WITH
VASHTI♡

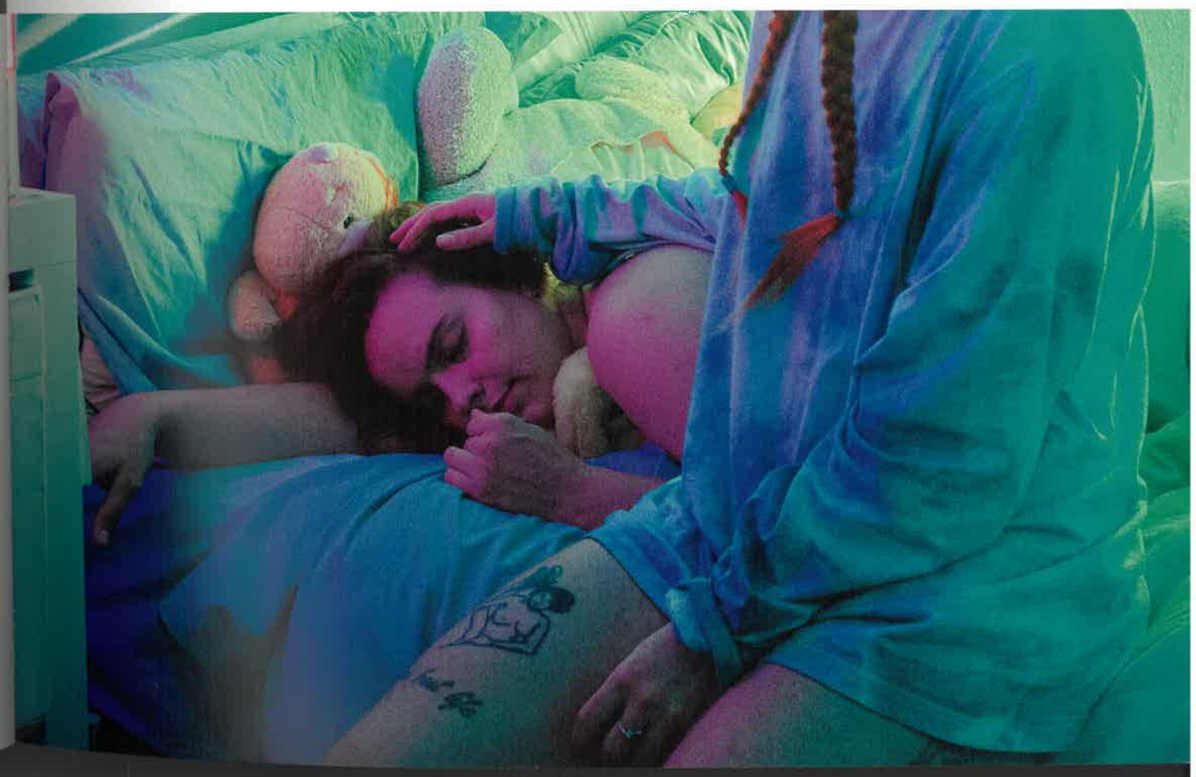
PLAYING DICE

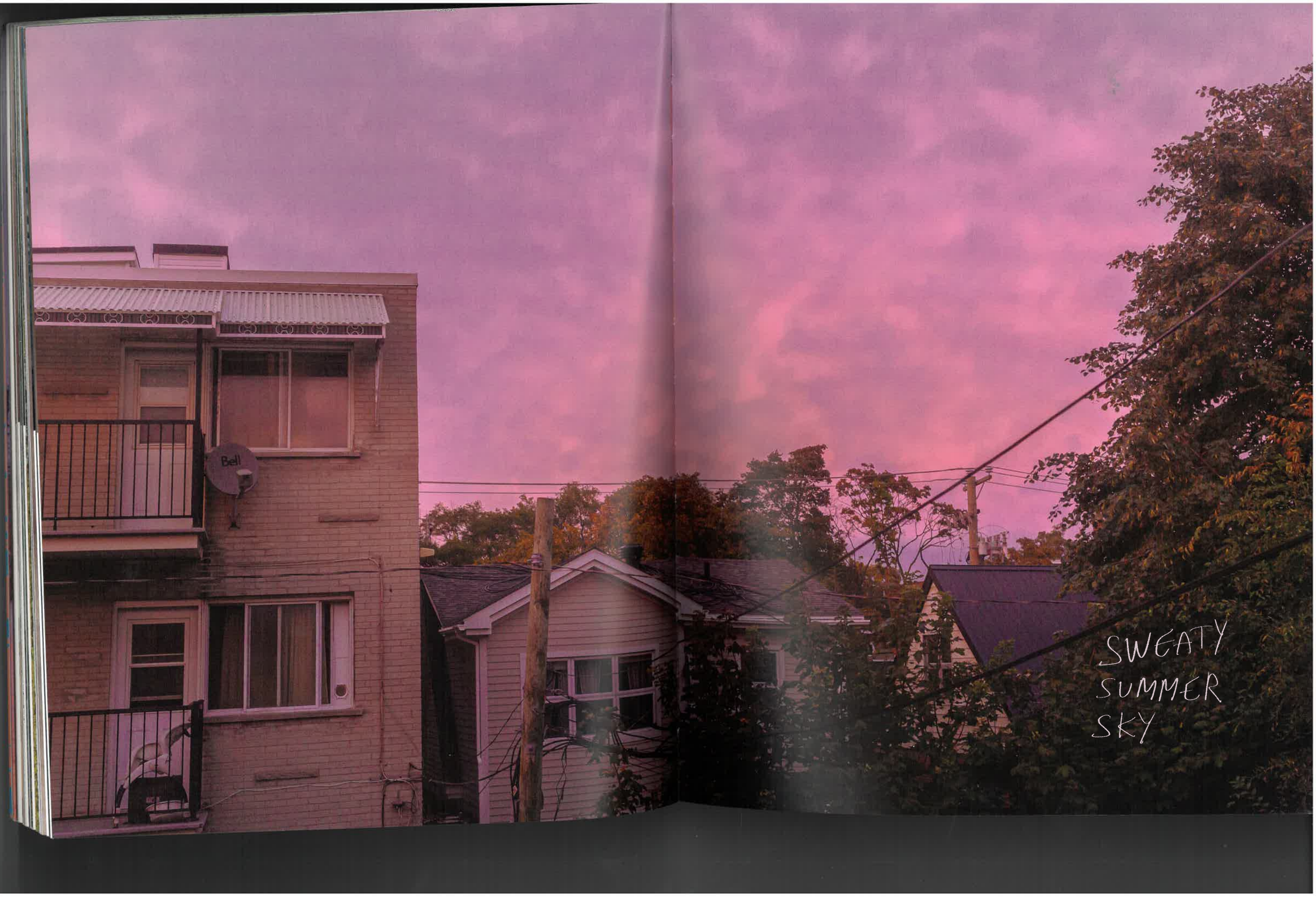
WITH FRIENDS IN MY CHILDHOOD BACKYARD

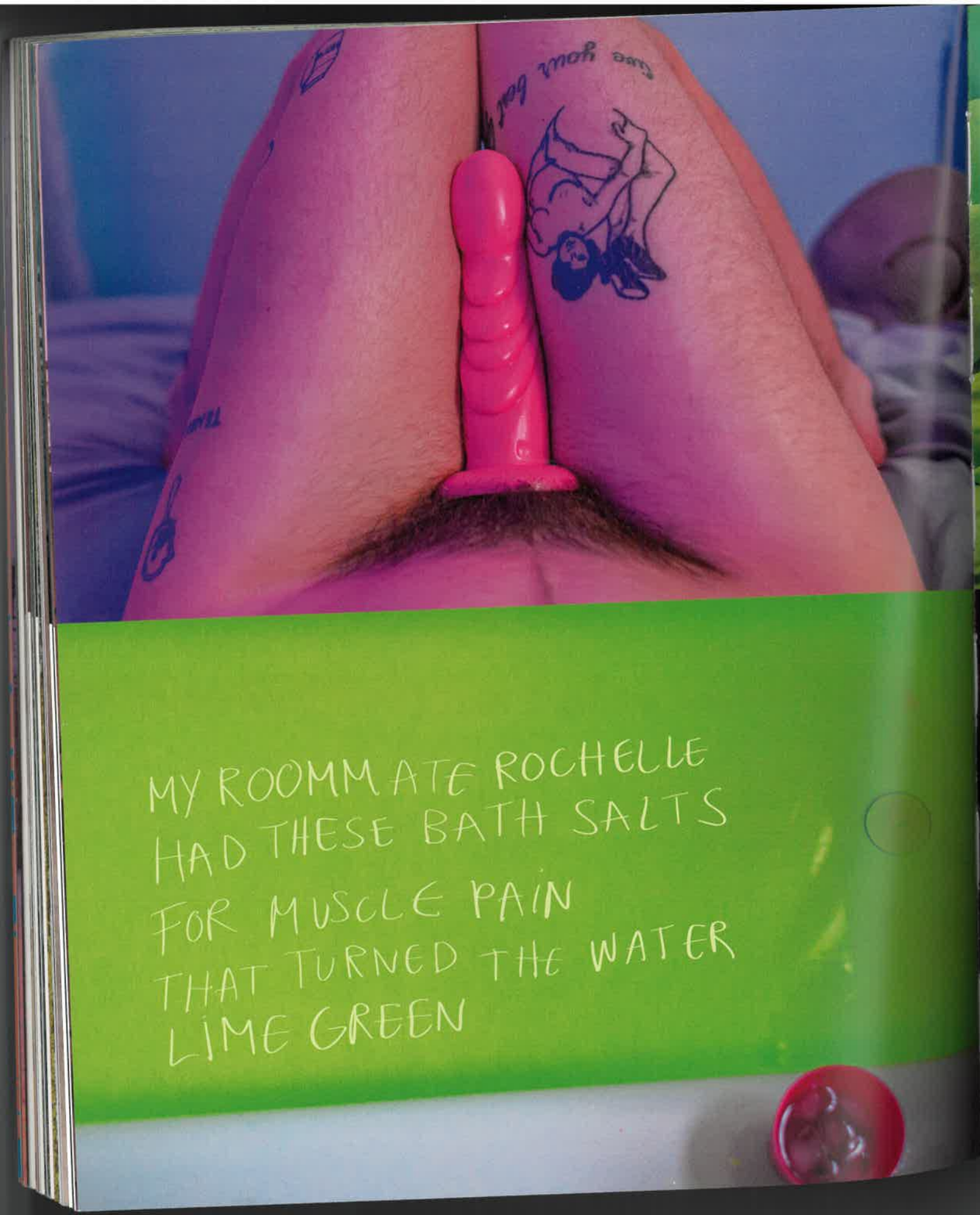
SUPPORTING
EACH OTHER
THROUGH THE
GROWING PAINS

NINA AND I
WORKED A LOT
THAT SUMMER

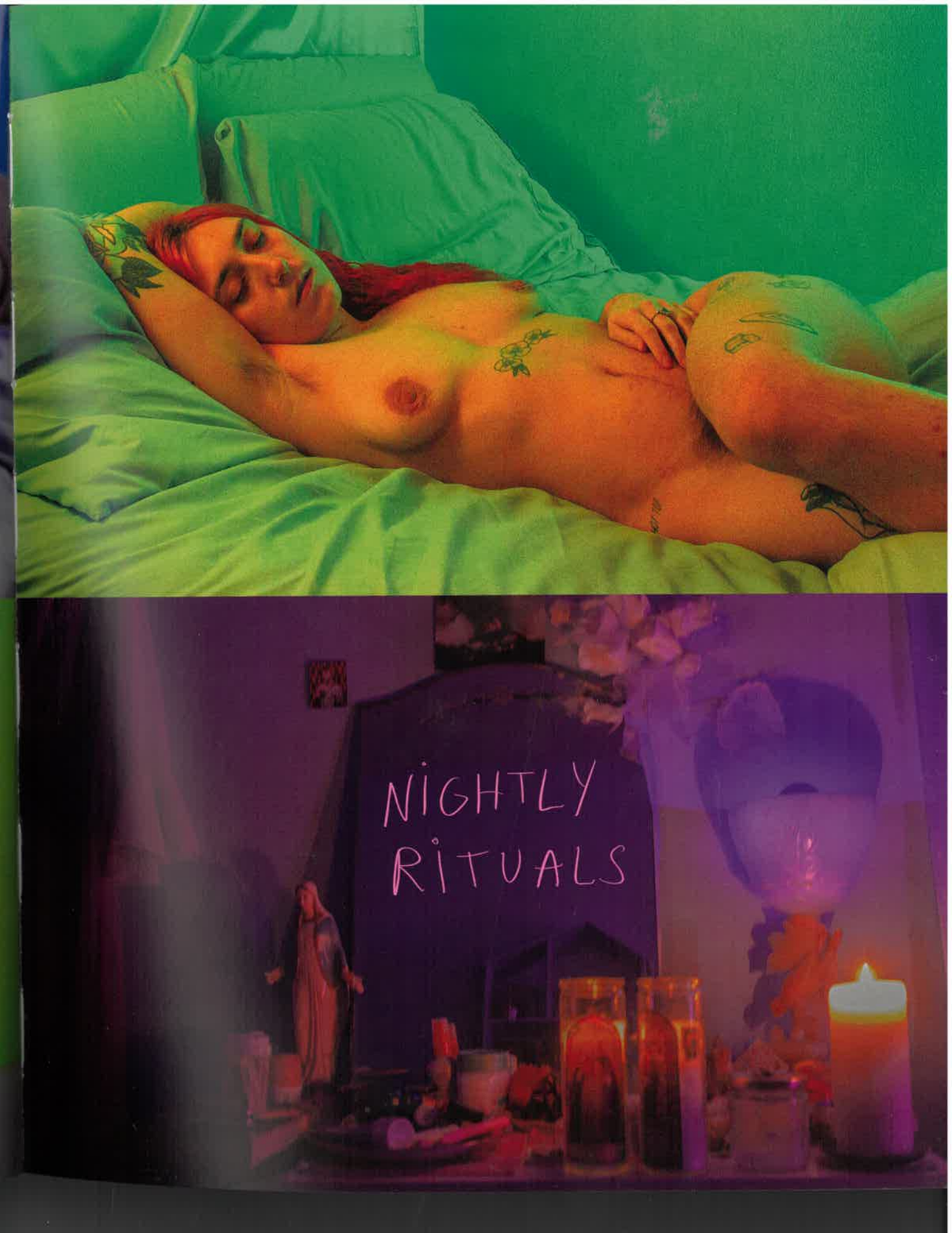
SAVING UP
FOR A TRIP
IN THE WINTER




Bell
SWEATY
SUMMER
SKY



MY ROOMMATE ROCHELLE
HAD THESE BATH SALTS
FOR MUSCLE PAIN
THAT TURNED THE WATER
LIME GREEN



NIGHTLY
RITUALS

HEAT RASH

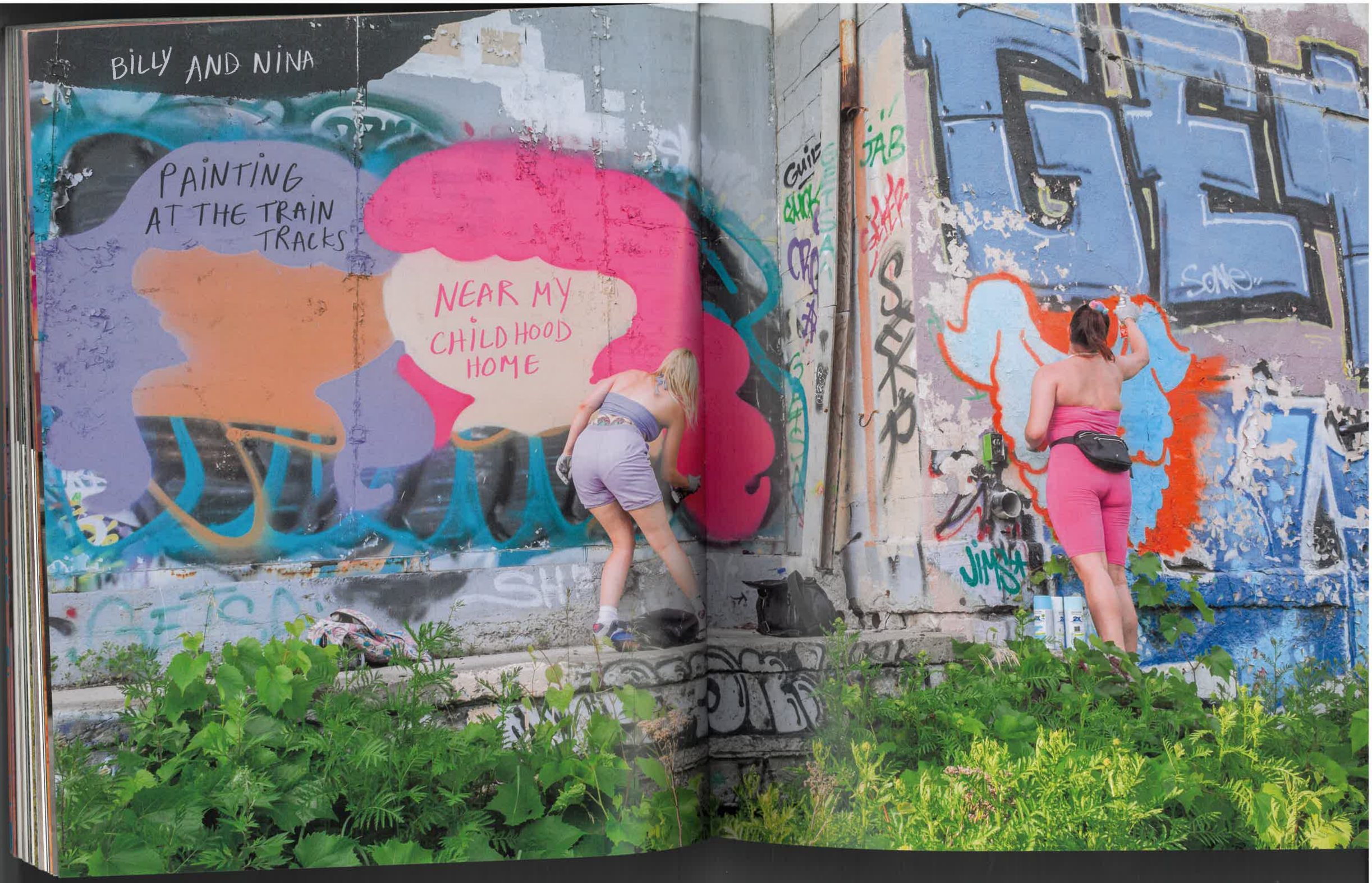
HOT TOP

BILLY IS LIKE AN OLDER SIBLING FIGURE IN MY LIFE
THEY ARE VERY FIERCE
& TEACH ME A LOT ABOUT
LOYALTY, GENEROSITY, AND ABUNDANCE

PART OF BILLY'S PONY COLLECTION

BILLY HOLDING A COPY OF NINA'S ZINE

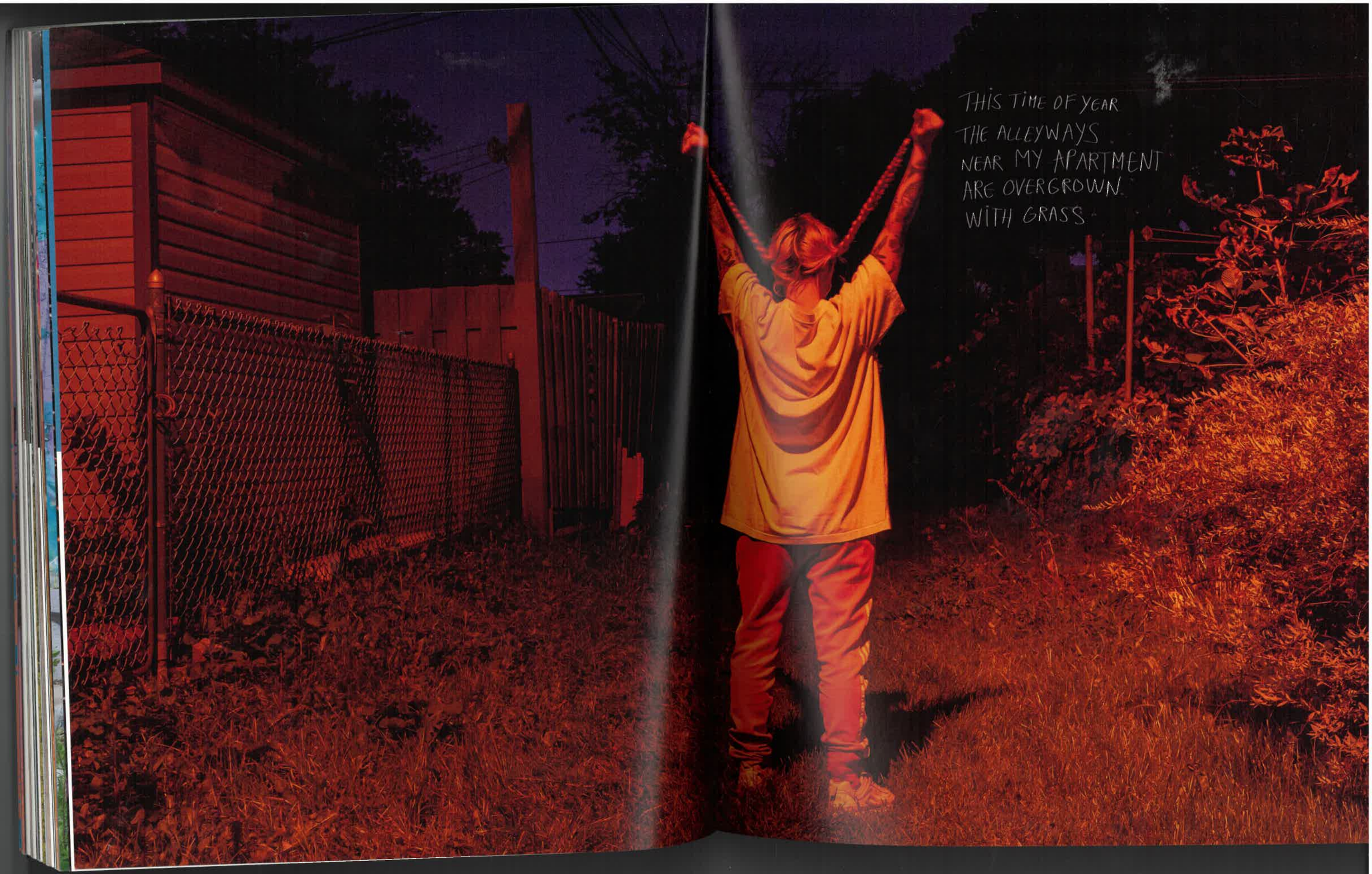
HOT PINK IN JUNE


BILLY AND NINA
PAINTING AT THE TRAIN TRACKS
NEAR MY CHILDHOOD HOME

BIKING HOME,
BASKING IN
THE EVENING
GLOW

LOOKING
AT

GROWTH
& TRANSITION
AS A WORK
OF ART
IN ITSELF


THIS TIME OF YEAR
THE ALLEYWAYS
NEAR MY APARTMENT
ARE OVERGROWN
WITH GRASS

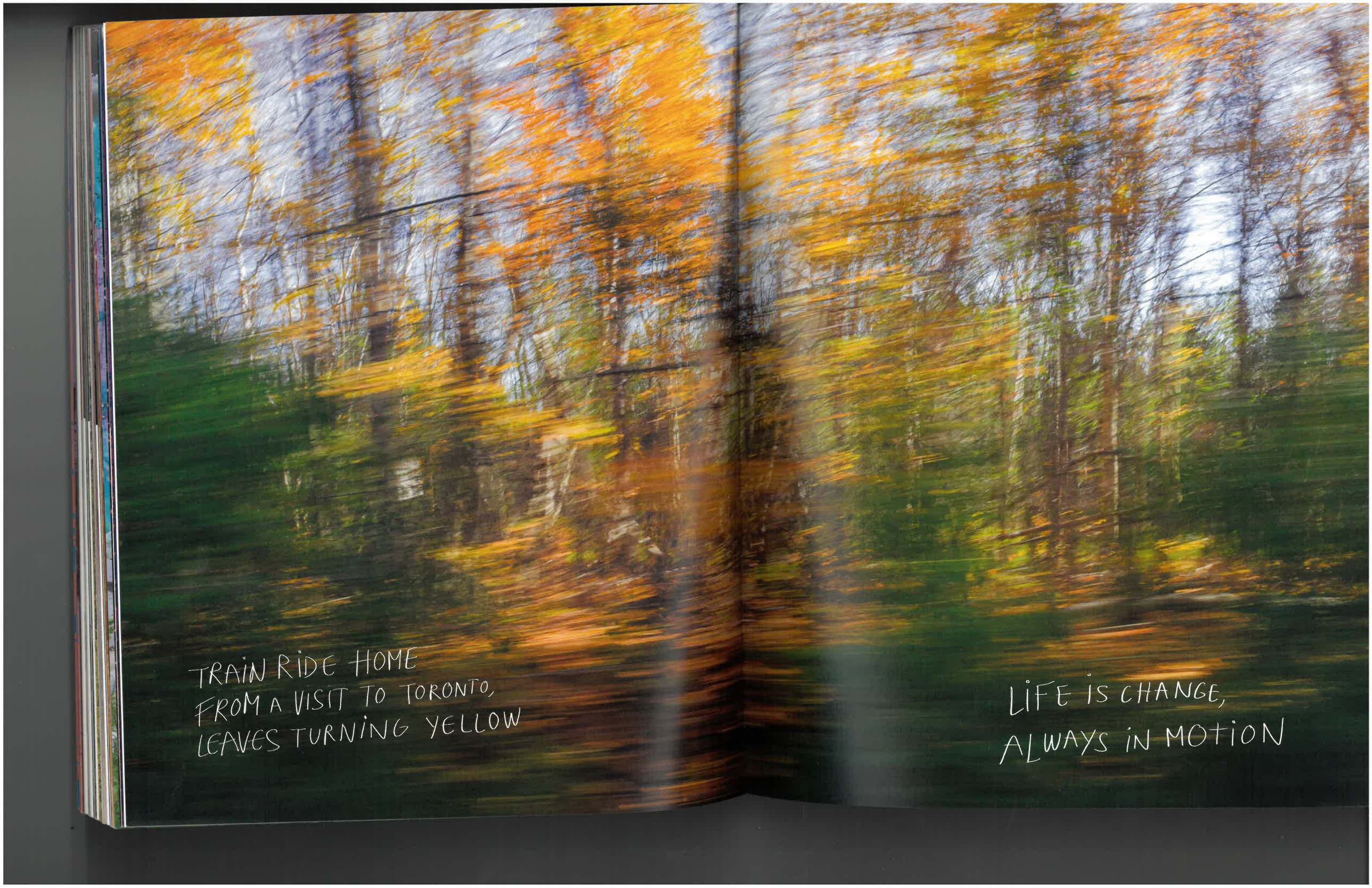
VASHTI IS VERY
PROTECTIVE OF ME

/

WE ALWAYS
LOOK OUT
FOR EACH OTHER

FALL

2019


TRAIN RIDE HOME
FROM A VISIT TO TORONTO,
LEAVES TURNING YELLOW
LIFE IS CHANGE,
ALWAYS IN MOTION

SELF-PORTRAIT
AT NINA'S VANITY,
SHORTLY BEFORE
WE MOVED IN TOGETHER

WE HAD A HOUSEWARMING PARTY
WITH ALL OUR FRIENDS
BEFORE THE HOLIDAYS -
IT WAS A COOKIE-DECORATING
NIGHT ♡

NINA'S BIRTHDAY CAKE
-THEY'RE A LIBRA

I WENT TO BC TO VISIT TRIXIE WHO HAD RECENTLY MOVED BACK THERE

THE OCEAN BREEZE FEELS SO HEALING EVERY TIME

DATE NIGHT WITH NINA

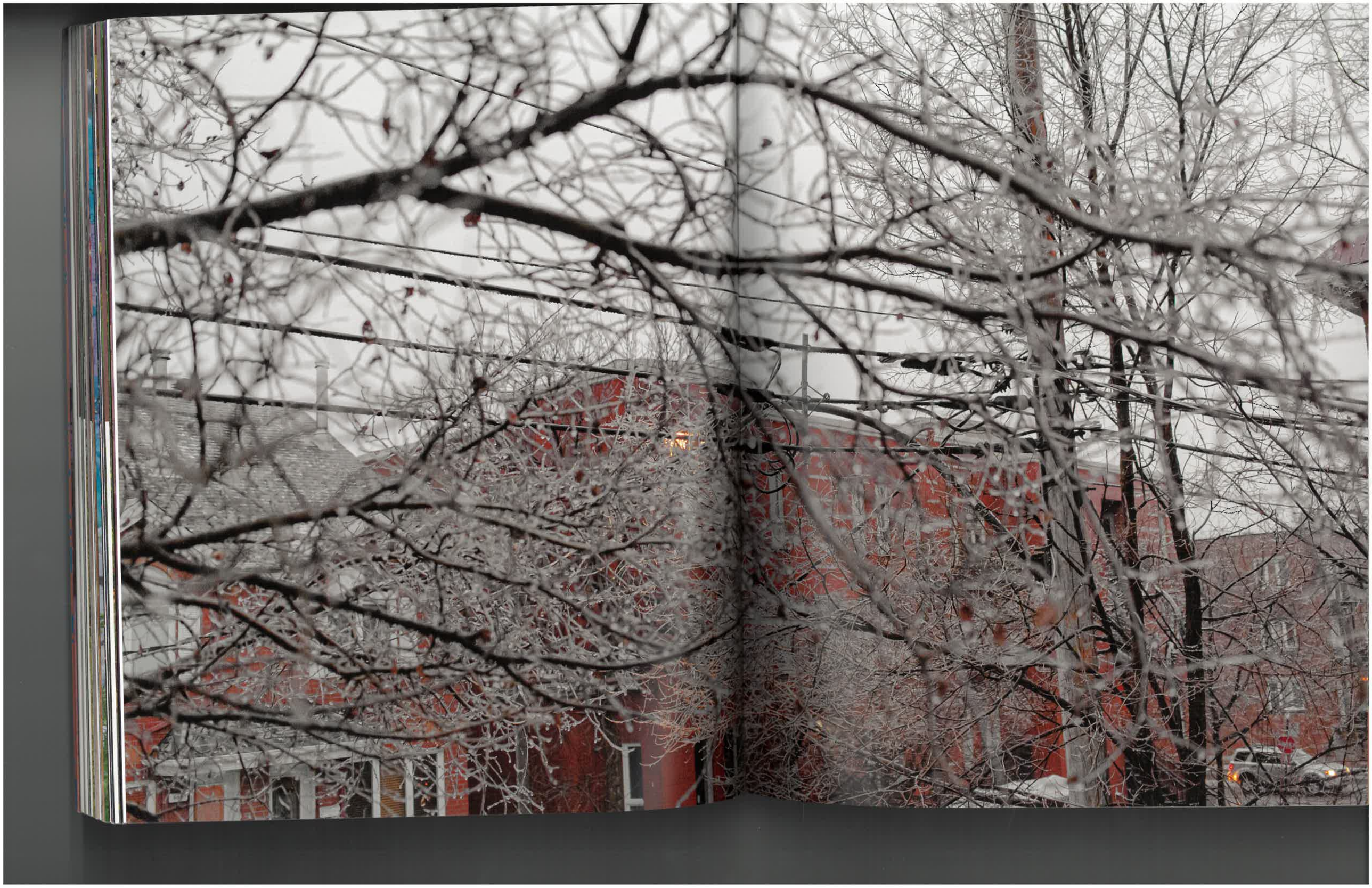
A CALM NIGHT, EVEN THOUGH

I REMEMBER EVERYTHING
FEELING REALLY
HECTIC

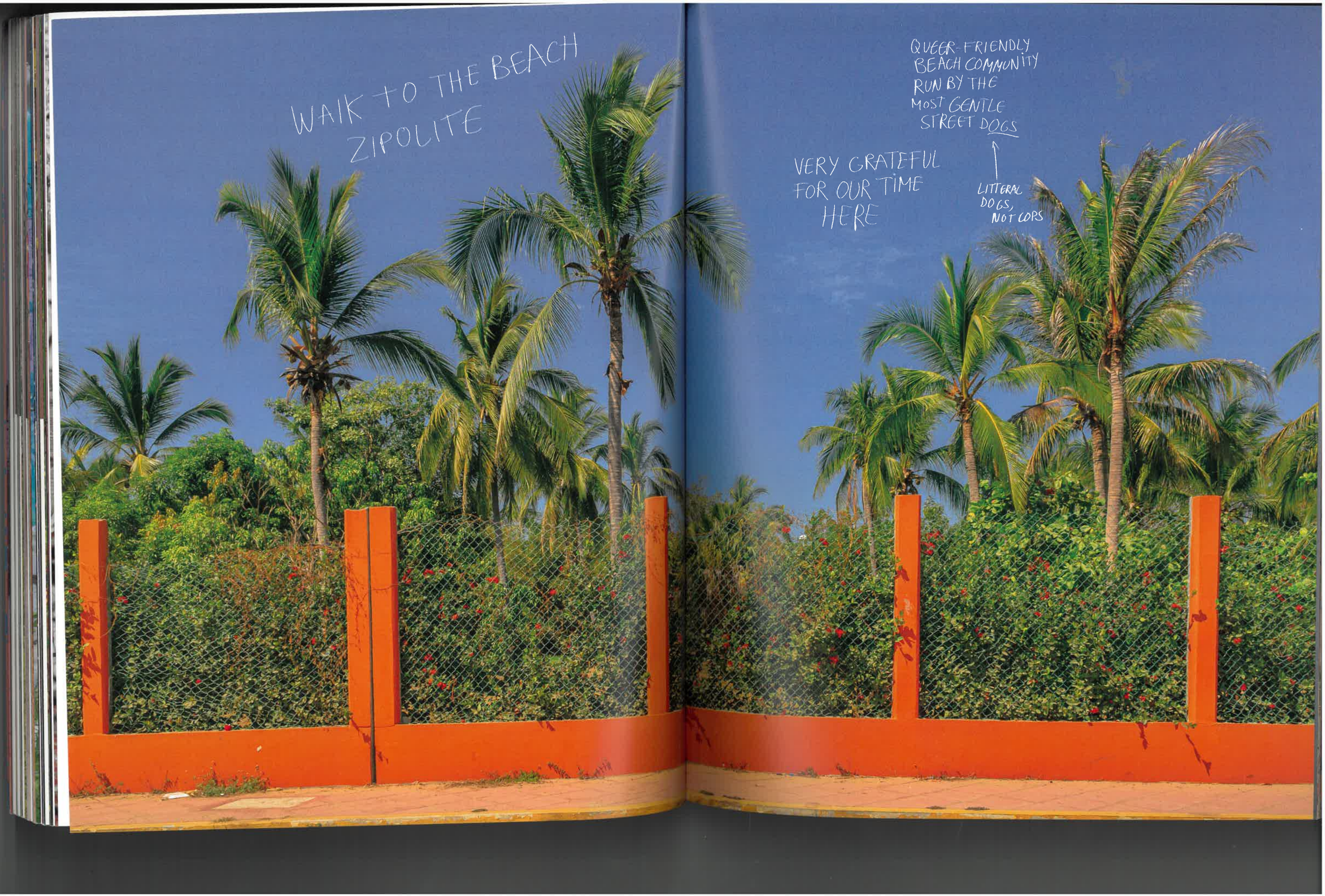
LIGHT STUDY

CLOUD-GAZING

WINTER 2020



MEXICO


WAIK TO THE BEACH
ZIPOLITE
QUEER-FRIENDLY
BEACH COMMUNITY
RUN BY THE
MOST GENTLE
STREET DOGS
VERY GRATEFUL
FOR OUR TIME
HERE
LITTERAL
DOGS,
NOT COPS

BREAKFAST
WITH
BILLY
CDMX,
FEBRUARY 6, 2020

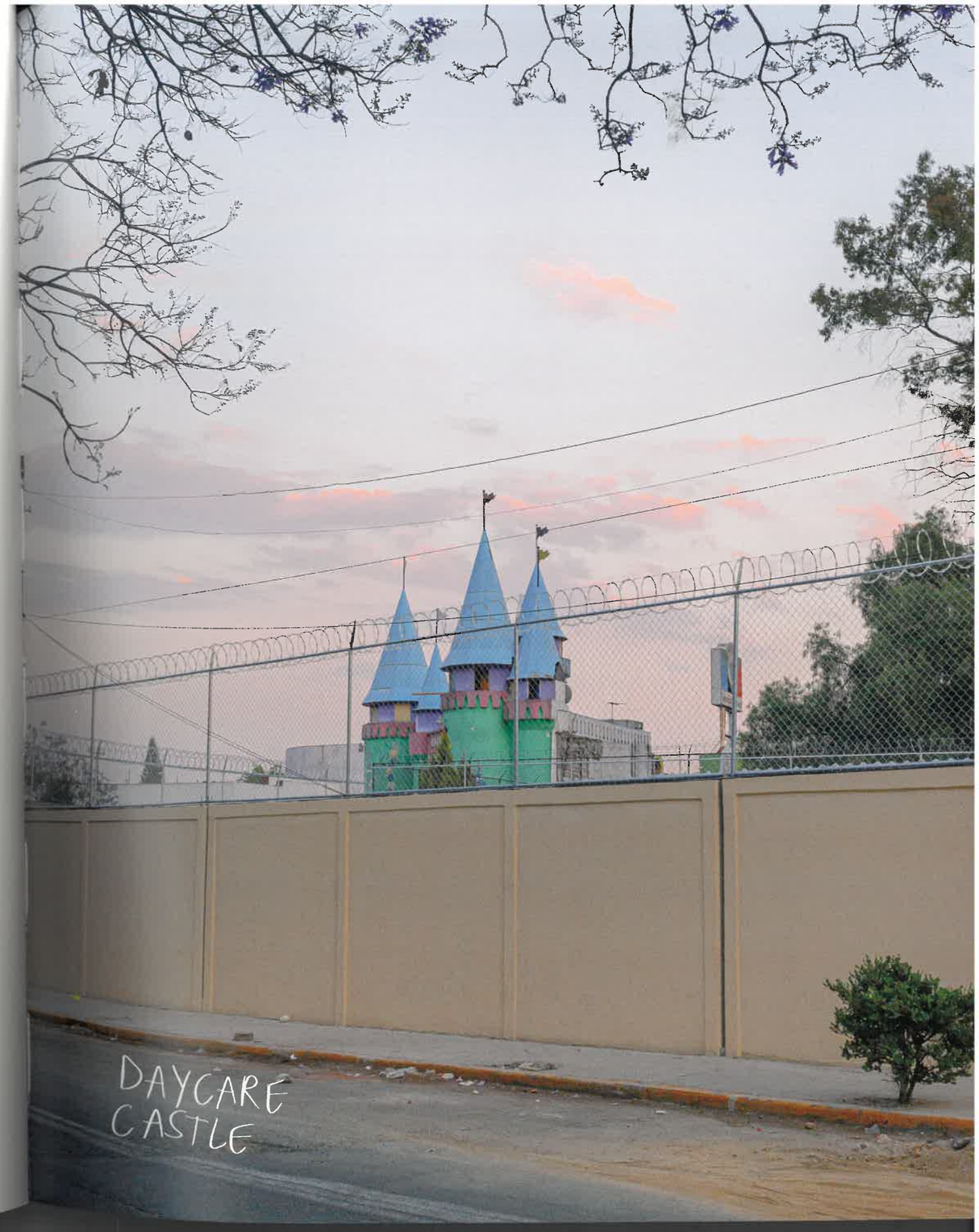
SELF-
PORTRAIT
DURING
A
HEAVY
MIGRAINE

TESTOSTERONE
WITH A VIEW

BILLY AND NINA
OVERLOOKING CDMX

TAKING IT ALL IN

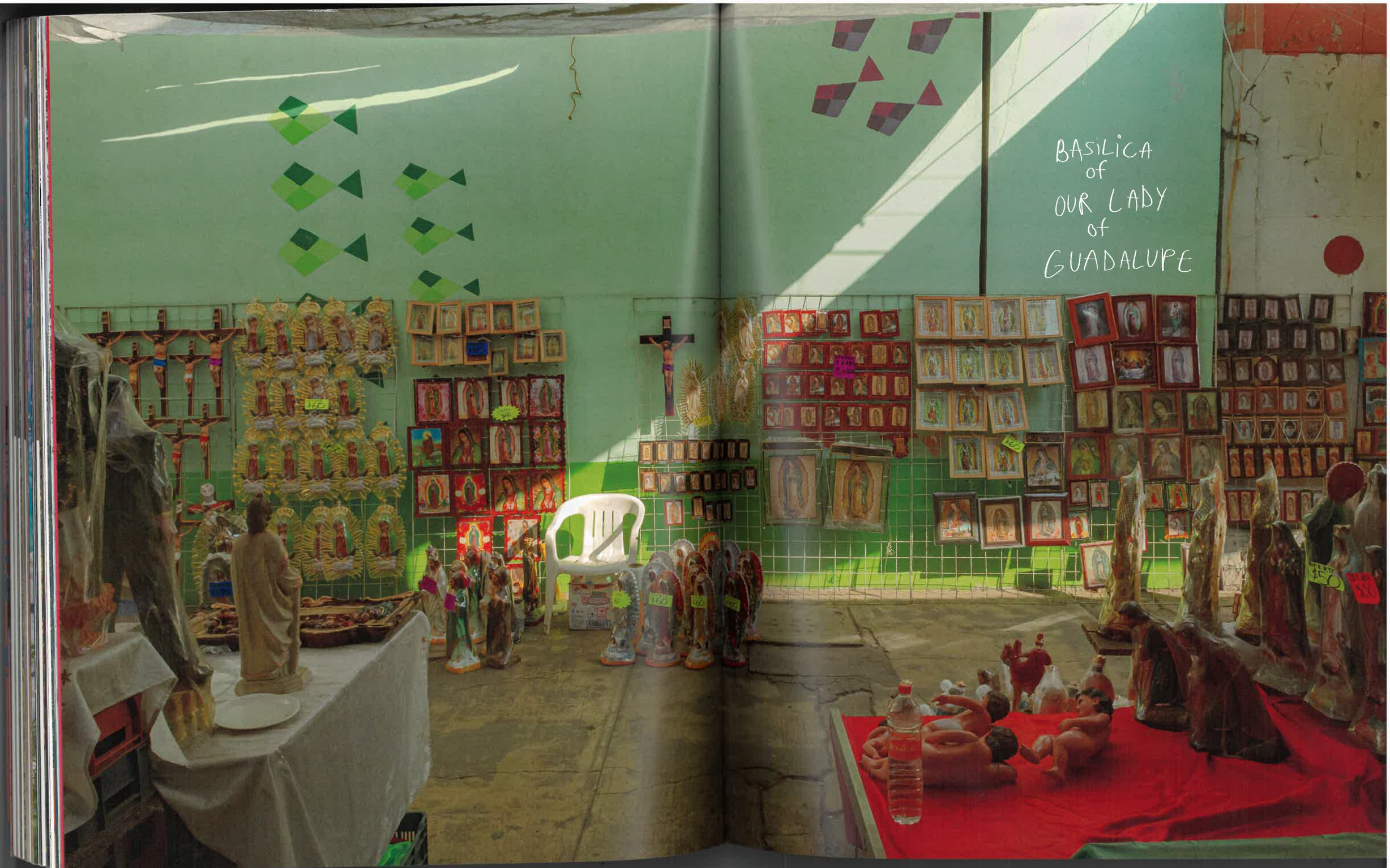
GETTING
LOST
IN OUR
DAYDREAMS



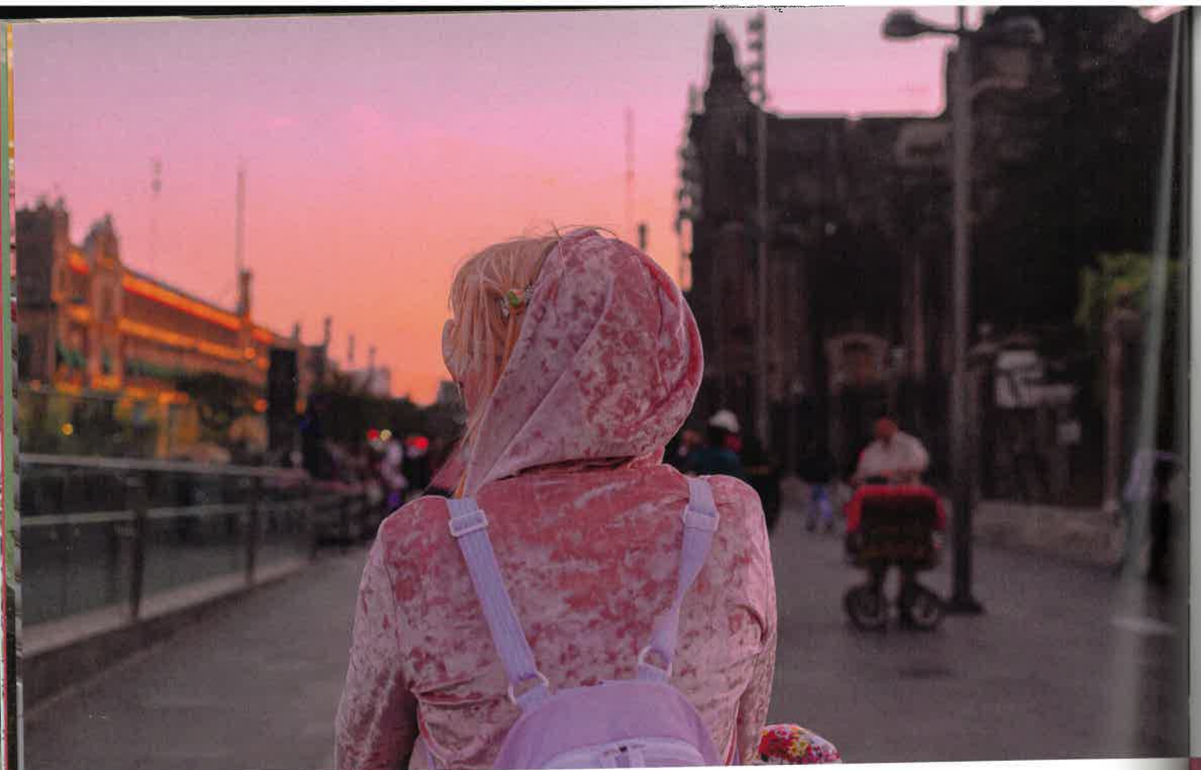
BLUE HOUSE
IN LA CONDESA

CLUB LOS ANGELES

NIGHTTIME
WANDERINGS


BASILICA
of
OUR LADY
of
GUADALUPE

ICE CREAM BREAK



ONE OF
THOSE
MOMENTS

YOU WANT
TO LIVE IN
FOREVER

NINA DANCING TO CUMBIA MUSIC

THERE WERE
FIREWORKS
EVERY NIGHT
IN OAXACA

A MOMENT WITH
THE OCEAN.
CALM BEFORE
THE STORM

SPRING 2020

"THE COVID YEARS"

THE PANDEMIC HIT NORTH AMERICA ABOUT A WEEK AFTER WE CAME HOME FROM MEXICO

NINA MADE US ALL MASKS BECAUSE STORES WERE SOLD OUT

WE SPENT
SO MUCH TIME
INDOORS,
DAYS, WEEKS,
MONTHS
BLURRING INTO
EACH OTHER

AT TIMES
IT FELT LIKE
WE MIGHT
NEVER LEAVE

WALKING
MY BUNNY - SELF

April 10, 2020

Grey day today.
Everyone is getting sleepier
by the minute.
Waiting to get paid/I pulled
the wheel of fortune reading my tarot
I don't miss the old world
before the pandemic.
I am dreading going back
to "normal"/hope we never do.

thinking about the trauma of
Settler Colonialism
& Late-Stage Capitalism.
I think there are lies
we've been told to accept
as truths that are quickly
disintegrating right now-
I don't think people
will stand for it much longer.

WE BAKED
A LOT, TO
PASS THE
TIME

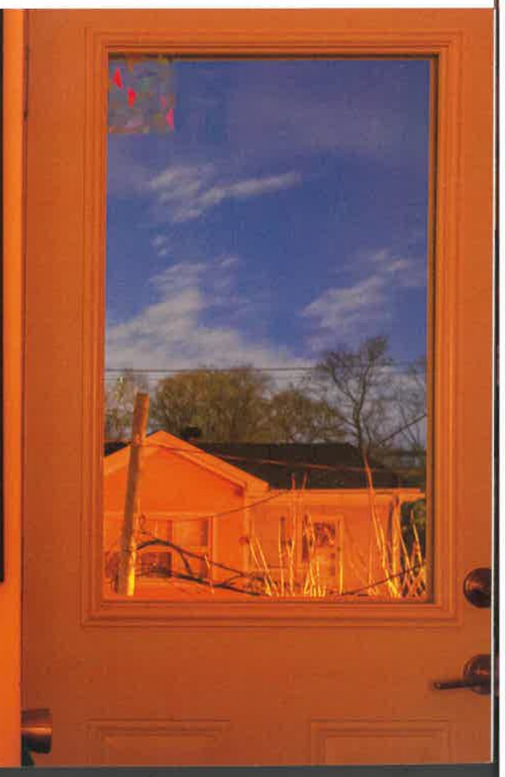
I FOCUSED ON
MAKING MY SPACE
AS COZY AS IT
COULD BE

LUCKY STAYED
WITH US THOSE
FIRST FOUR MONTHS
OF LOCKDOWN

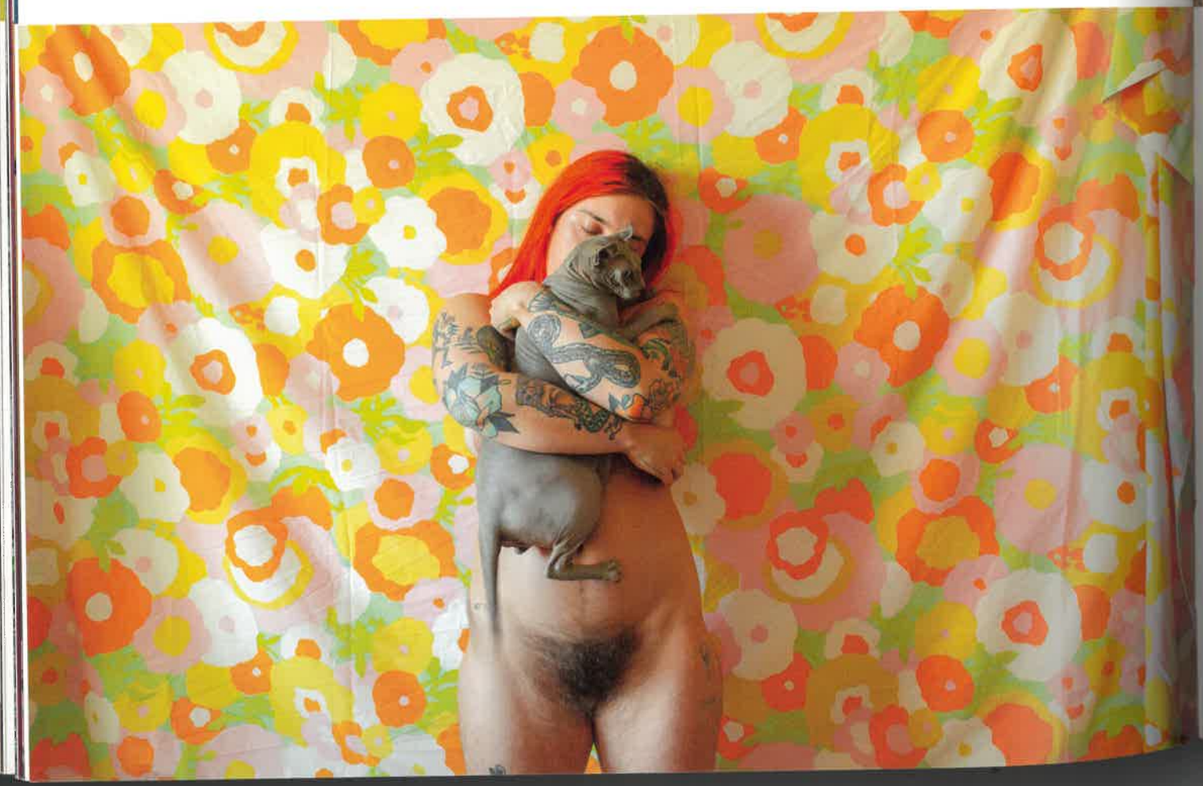
IT WAS ME, NINA,
LUCKY, ROCHELLE
AND VASHTI,
CO-EXISTING
EVERY DAY

SLOW MORNINGS
IN BED WITH NINA

& LOTS OF
TIME SPENT
LOOKING OUT
~~WINDOWS~~ WINDOWS



SELF-PORTRAIT
WITH MY DAUGHTER
ON MY 27th BIRTHDAY



PRECIOUS
ALONE TIME
AT BATHTIME

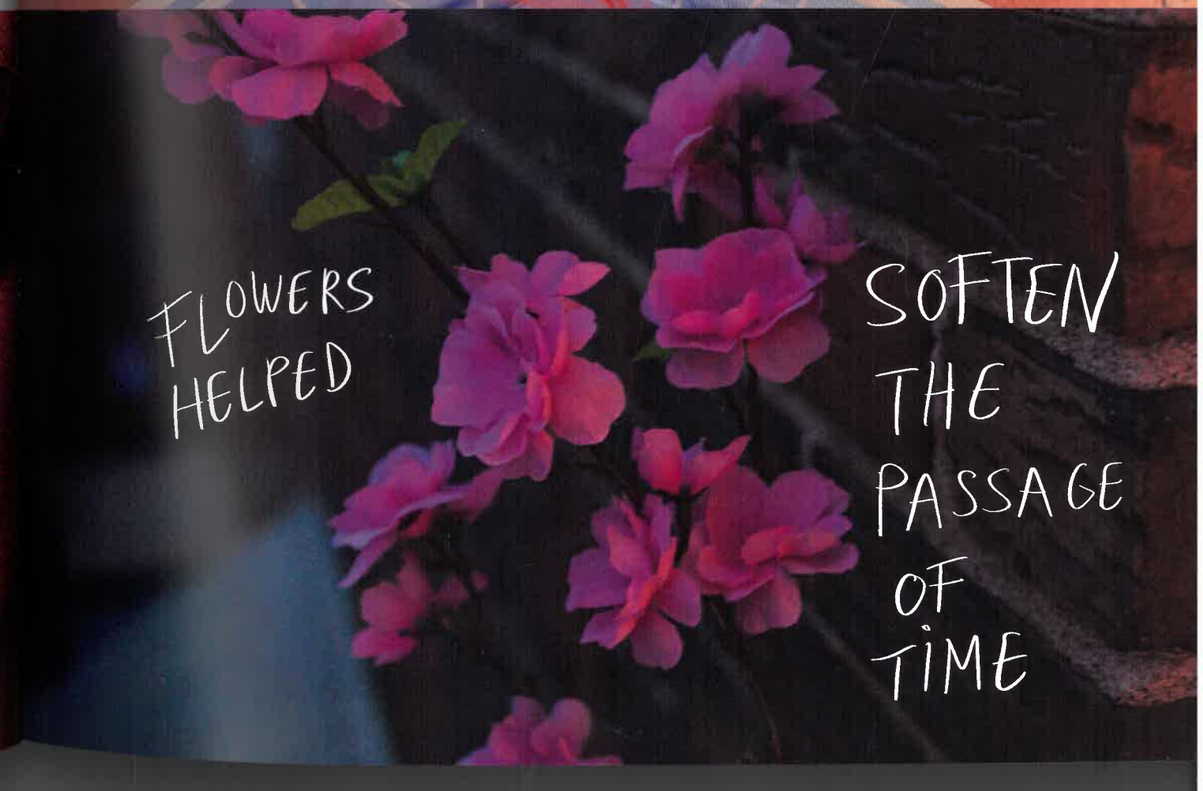
APRIL 20, 2020

I GOT DRESSED UP & WALKED AROUND MY NEIGHBOURHOOD TO CELEBRATE MY TWO-YEAR TESTOSTERONE ANNIVERSARY ♡

NINA DID
MY MAKE-UP
TO MARK
THE OCCASION

MY FIRST
ICE CREAM
OF THE YEAR

AROUND MY
BIRTHDAY
WE WERE
FINALLY
ALLOWED
TO HAVE SMALL
OUTDOOR PICNICS


FLOWERS
HELPED
SOFTEN
THE
PASSAGE
OF
TIME

FACE MASK IN BED

SUMMER

2020

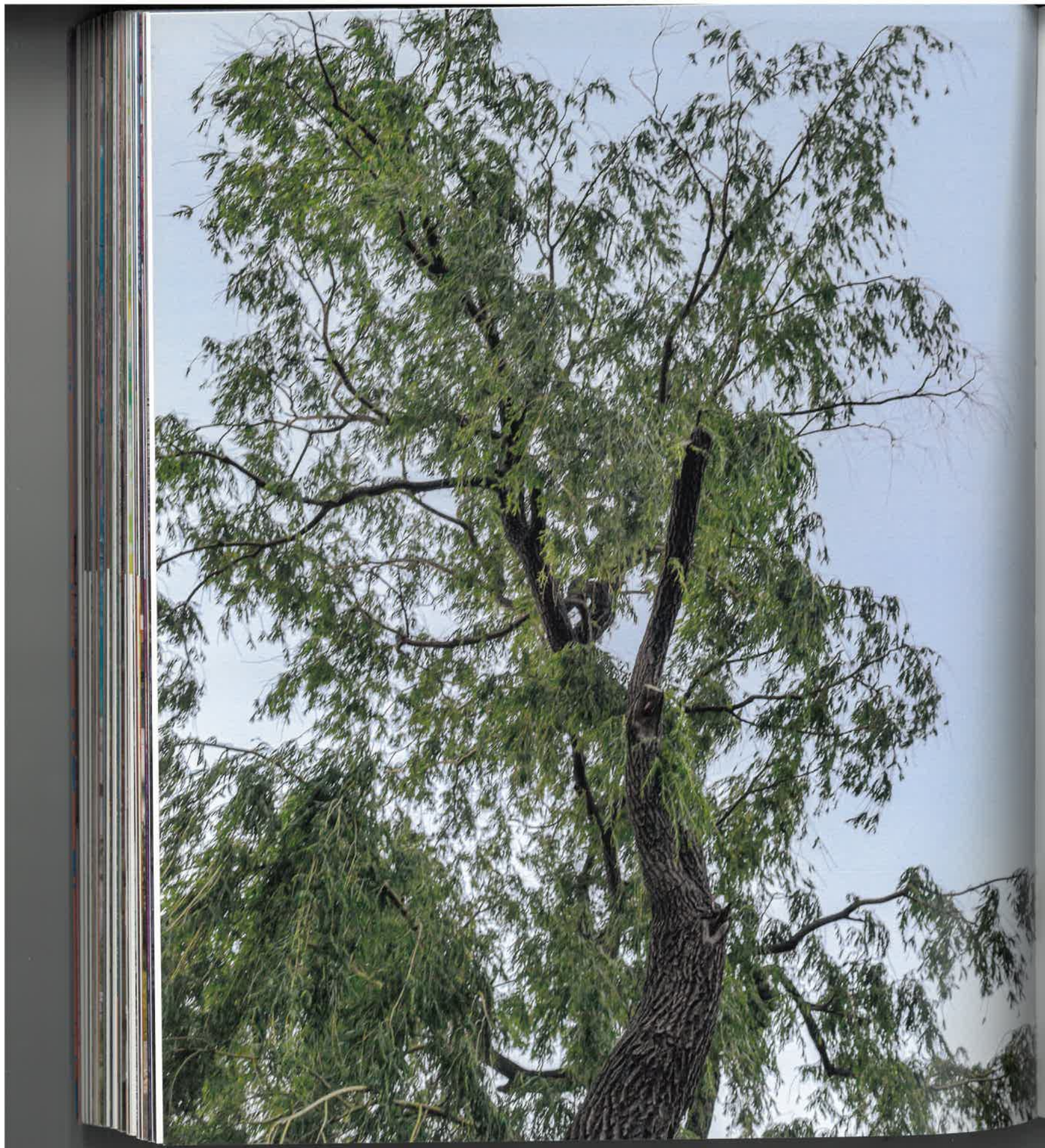
SHARING
A JOINT
WITH NINA —
SMOKING WEED
IS A VERY GROUNDING
& HEALING PRACTICE
FOR ME

EVERY NIGHT I WALK DOWN
NEARBY ALLEYS ~~WALKING~~
~~CAN~~ THE GRASS ALSO FEELS
VERY GROUNDING

THAT SUMMER
WAS A
DIFFICULT

TIME TO LIVE
THROUGH

BUT I AM
GRATEFUL
FOR BEING
LOVED & HELD
ALONG THE WAY



MY FAVORITE
WILLOW TREE
ALWAYS CALMS
ME DOWN.

SHE SWAYS IN
THE WIND SO
BEAUTIFULLY

WE ALL LEFT THE HOUSE
TO CHASE DOWN COMET NEOWISE.
IT WAS NOWHERE TO BE SEEN
~~BUT~~ THE SUNSET WAS
PRETTY ANYWAY

DEPRESSION
WAS HITTING
HARD &

I HAD TO LOOK
FOR WAYS TO
RE-CENTER PLEASURE
IN MY LIFE

WATERING
THE ROSES AT
MY CHILDHOOD
HOME

IT WAS HOT & SWEATY AND I FELT REALLY STIFLED CREATIVELY FROM BEING INDOORS FOR SO LONG

RIDING MY BIKE GENERALLY
SOLVES MOST PROBLEMS

WE LEFT
THE CITY
AT LAST

TO GO
FLOWER PICKING

MY LONG
HAIR MAKES
ME FEEL
VERY
MASCULINE
AND FEMININE

BODY HAIR
TOO
I WAS REALLY
HAPPY TO
GROW THIGH
FUR ♡

MY DOLLS
HAVE WATCHED
OVER ME
THROUGH
IT ALL

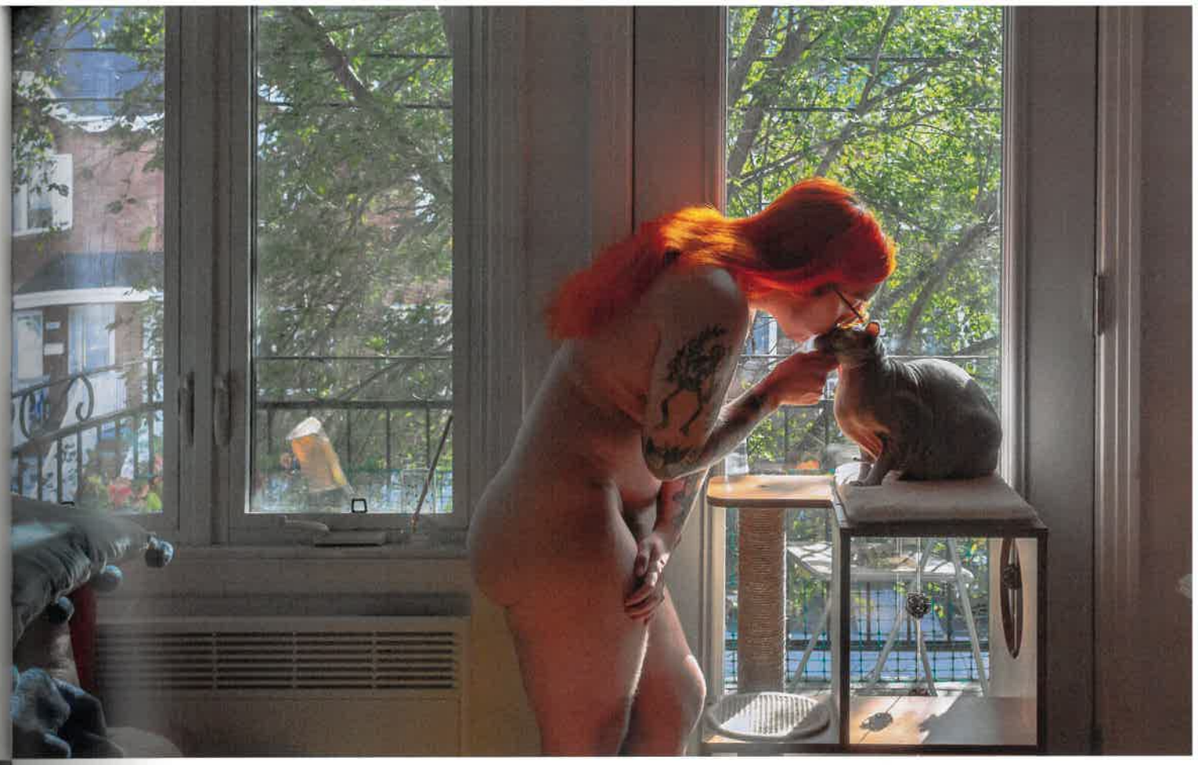
THE PROCESS

GRATEFUL FOR
OUR TIME HERE
ON MOHAWK LAND
THANK YOU ARLETTE!

WE WENT CAMPING ON ELIZA'S
MOM'S PROPERTY TO GET
OUT OF THE
CITY

*LUCKY'S WIFE

HANGING
OUT
WITH LUCKY
AFTER A
DENTIST
APPOINTMENT



AROUND THIS
TIME ~~VASHTI~~
WE REALIZED
THAT VASHTI
HAS ARTHRITIS
& STARTED GIVING
HER DAILY MEDECINE -
SHE TAKES IT ON
HER PODIUM

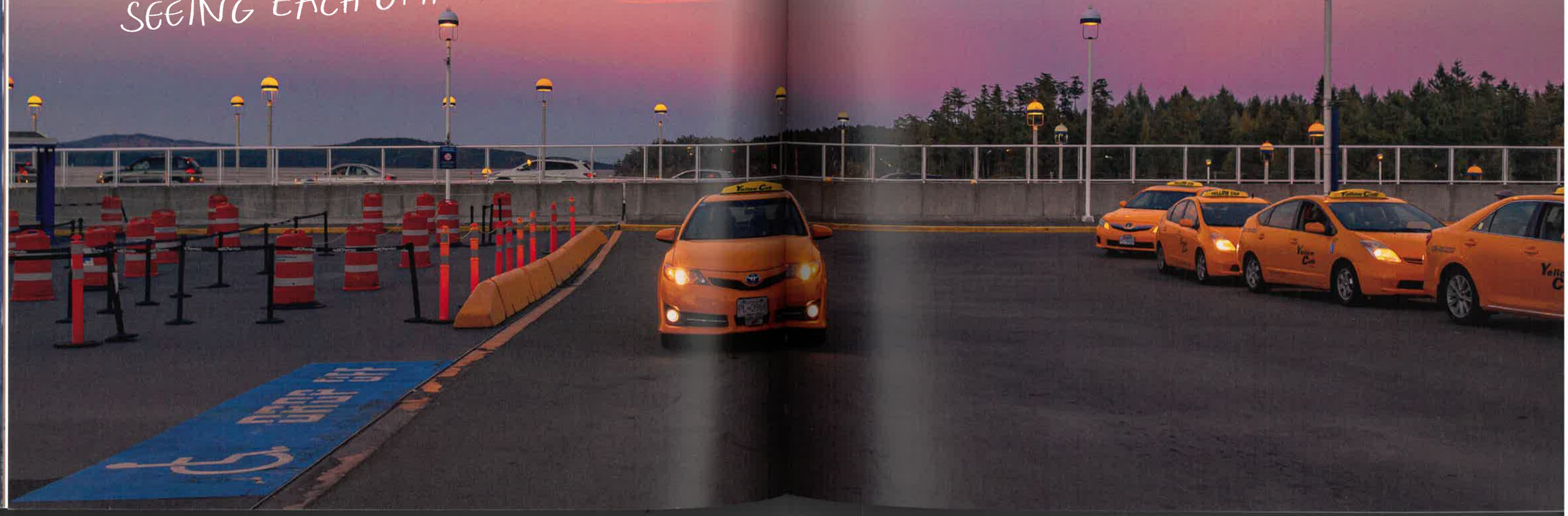
ANGEL WING IN THE SKY

FINDING WAYS
TO DAYDREAM
AGAIN ♡

FALL 2020

LUCKY AND I FLEW
TO VISIT TRIXIE AT
THE FARM WHERE THEY
LIVED & WORKED AT
IN SAANICHTON, BC -
AFTER A YEAR WITHOUT
SEEING EACH OTHER

THE SIGHT OF
NEW SKIES
WAS SO DEEPLY
SOOTHING



MY TENT FOR THE WEEK

LUCKY, TRIXIE & THEIR DOG EMBER ♡ AT THEIR SHACK

LEAVING THE FARM
TO FERRY OVER TO
SATURNA ISLAND
& THE FAMILY CABIN

WILDFIRES MADE THE
AIR DENSE AND EERIE

ARRIVING AT THE CABIN, FELT JUST AS IT DID LAST TIME I WAS THERE — 6 YEARS PRIOR

LIKE THE GOOD PARTS OF BEING A KID

IT MADE THE SMALL GULF ISLAND FEEL EVEN MORE ISOLATED

SMOKE FROM THE WILDFIRES INTENSIFIED

FLYING ACCROSS
THE COUNTRY
AS A CHRONICALLY ILL
PERSON DURING
THE PANDEMIC
WAS A SCARY DECISION
TO MAKE - IT KEPT ME
UP AT NIGHT FOR
A FEW WEEKS

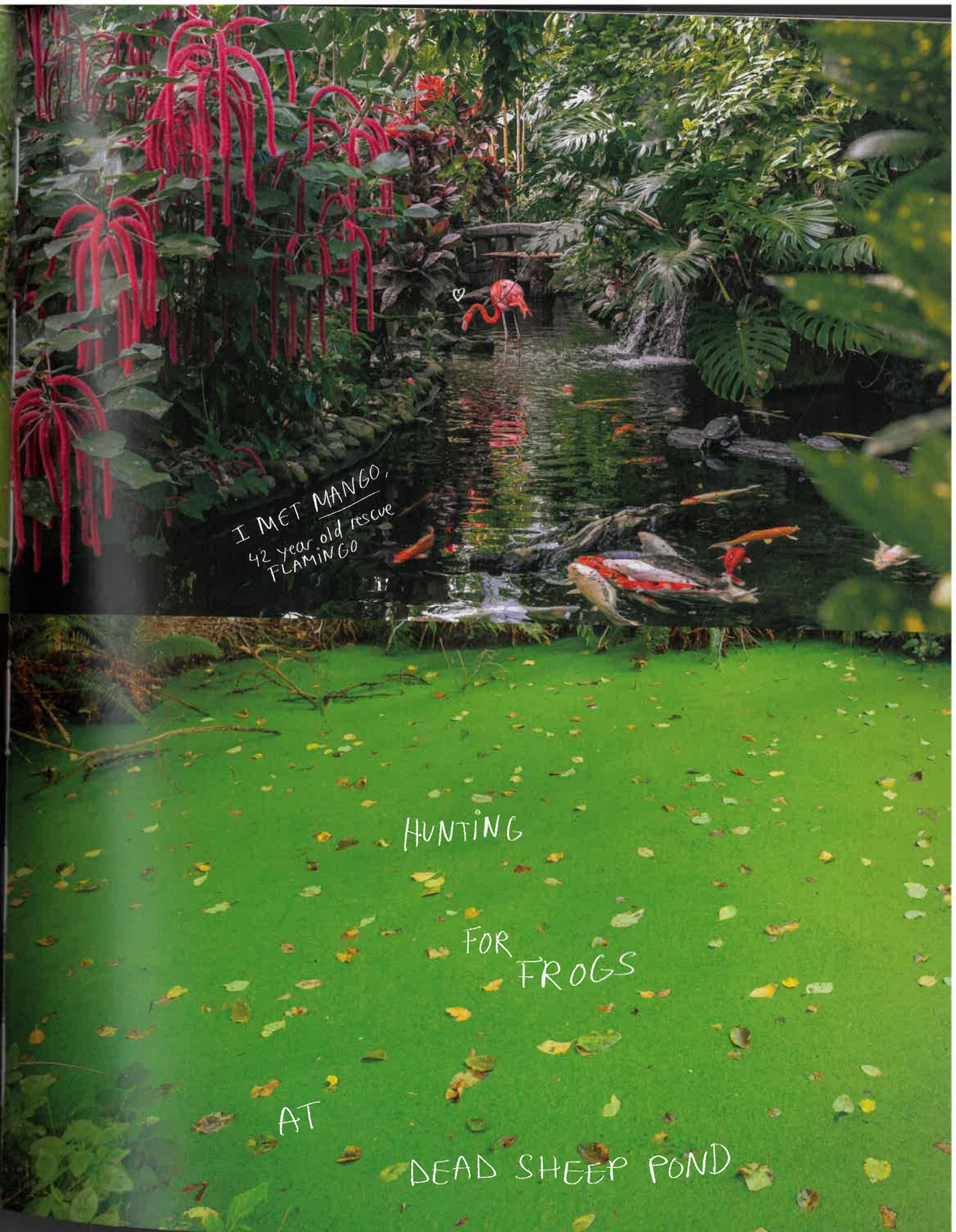
EVENTUALLY
I DECIDED MY
MENTAL HEALTH
WOULD BENEFIT
FROM GOING

I ALSO STARTED
TAKING
ANTI-DEPRESSANT
MEDICATION
AROUND THIS
TIME

THE MEDS
COMBINED WITH
CHOSEN FAMILY
& NATURE HELPED
SO MUCH

MADDIE
(COUSIN/FRIEND)

FAMILIAR
OBJECTS
IN TRIXIES ROOM


I MET MANGO,
42 year old rescue
FLAMINGO

HUNTING
FOR
FROGS
AT
DEAD SHEEP POND

I WAS DIAGNOSED WITH

NEPHROTIC SYNDROME
↳ A CHRONIC KIDNEY DISORDER
IN 1997, JUST BEFORE
TURNING 4

SHORTLY AFTER,
I GOT CEREBRAL THROMBOSIS
↳ A BLOOD CLOT
IN MY BRAIN!

ASTHMA SKIN CANCER

ECZEMA SURGERIES

YOU NAME IT,
I HAD IT

I SPENT MY FORMATIVE YEARS
IN AND OUT OF HOSPITAL
& I HAVE CHERISHED
EVERY MOMENT OF FREEDOM
SINCE*

* MY HEALTH HAS BEEN
A LOT MORE STABLE SINCE
FINISHING COLLEGE (2014)
AND ALLOWING MYSELF
TO LIVE AT MY OWN PACE.

I BELIEVE TESTOSTERONE
HAS HELPED A LOT TOO,
BECAUSE HAVING A
MENSTRUAL CYCLE
WAS REALLY ROUGH
ON MY BODY.

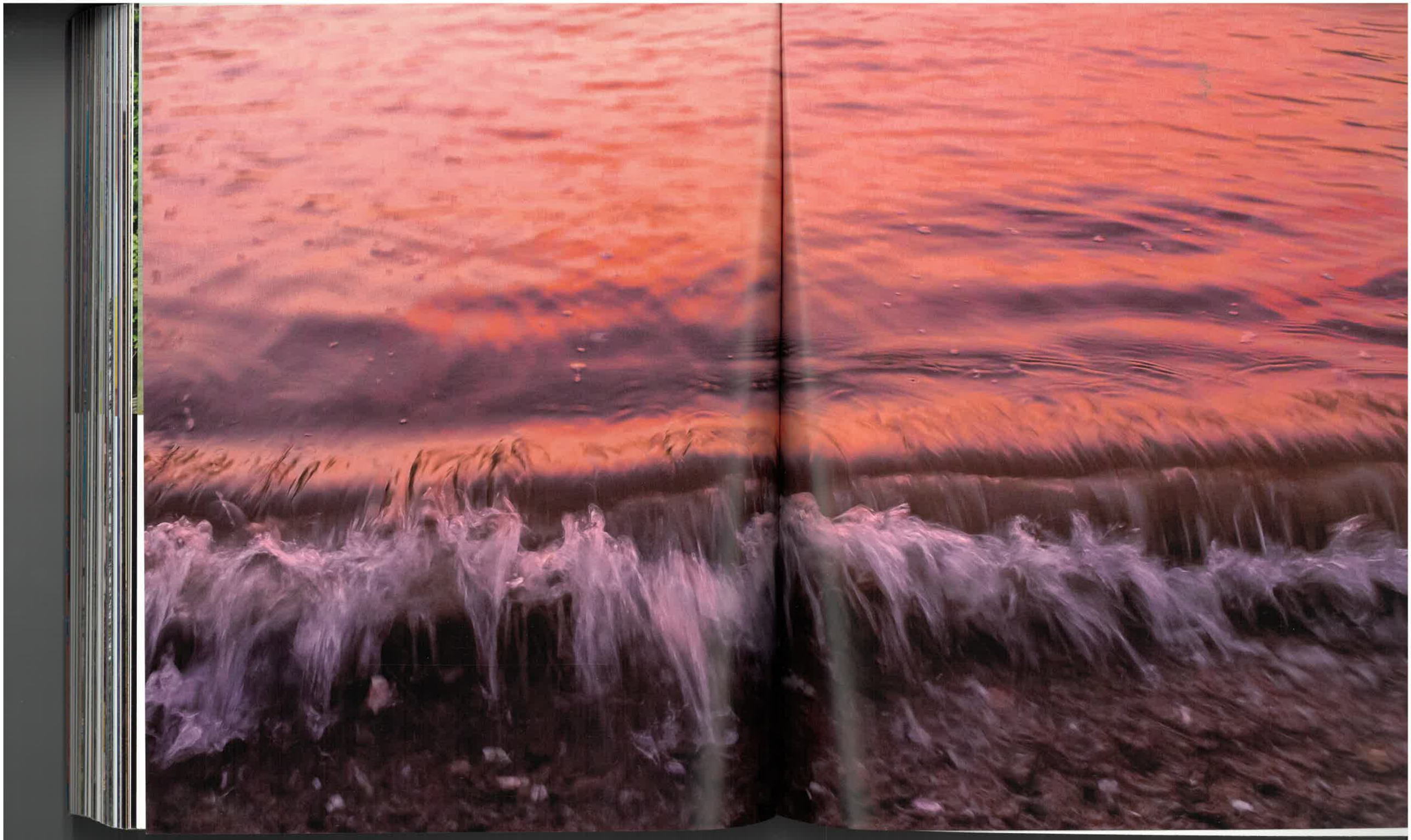
HOW
ALL THE
STARS

ARE THEIR OWN UNIQUE COLOUR

CAN YOU
SEE

↑ LUCKY SWIMMING
WITH EMBER AT SATURNA

EMBER TRAGICALLY
PASSED AWAY FROM
A ROAD ACCIDENT
SHORTLY AFTER OUR
VISIT. REMAINS
BUT HE ~~IS~~ LOVED
NOW & THROUGH
ALL TIME ♡



I RETURNED HOME
TO MONTREAL, Tio'tia:ke,
FEELING MORE
HOPEFUL, GROUNDED,
AND READY
TO HIBERNATE
FOR THE COLD MONTHS
AHEAD

SOME TIME IN AUGUST NINA PAINTED THIS GORGEOUS MURAL IN OUR KITCHEN, SO THAT IN THE DARK OF WINTER, WE WOULD STILL BE SURROUNDED BY GREENERY

AROUND THIS TIME
I MOVED MY STUDIO
OUT OF MY CHILDHOOD
HOME
& INTO A NEW
COLLECTIVE
SPACE
WITH OLD FRIENDS
-
WE HAD A SMALL
HALLOWEEN GATHERING, &
WATCHED BEETLEJUICE

WHAT DOES
YOUR INTUITION
TELL YOU?

THAT DEEP
KNOWING IN
YOUR GUT,
THAT UNDERSTANDS
OUR ONENESS

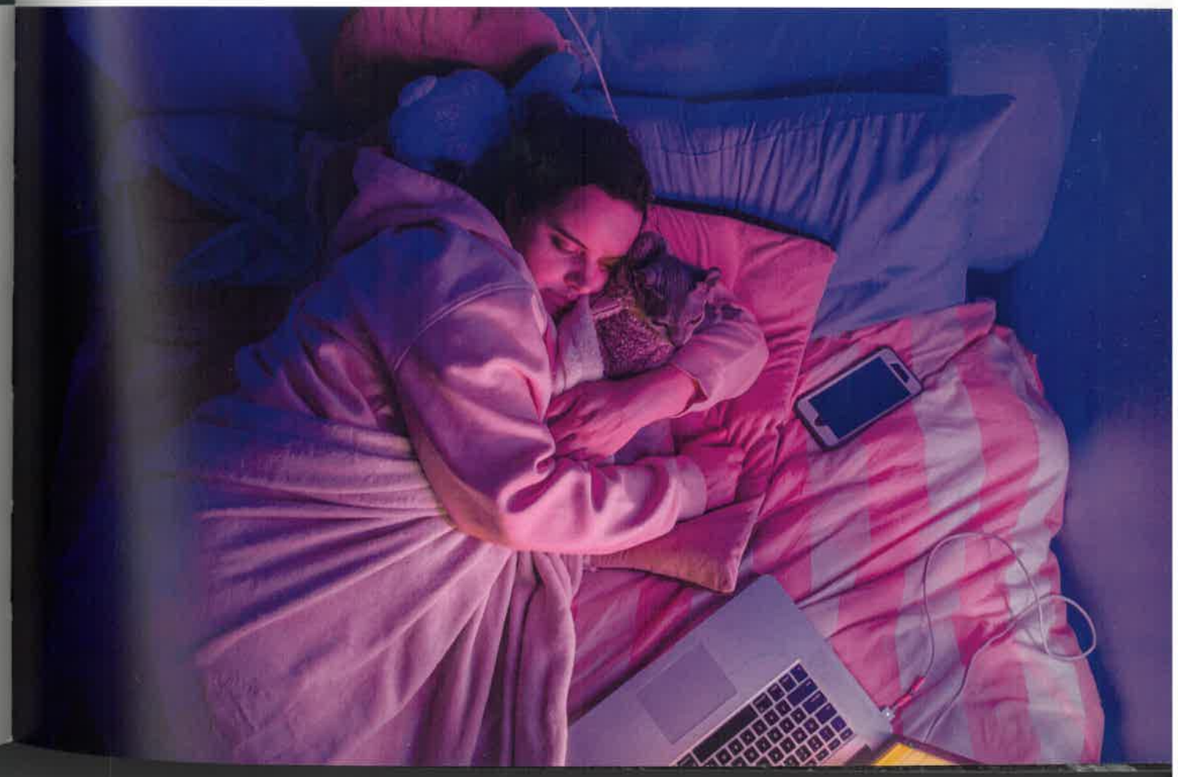
ALWAYS
LISTEN
TO IT

I FEEL
AT THE BEST
OF TIMES,

I AM "POSSESSED"
BY THE FAIRY
OF
CREATIVITY

IT'S A LOT
OF AIRY ENERGY,
BUT I BALANCE
IT OUT BY GIVING
INTENTIONAL
LOVE + CARE
TO THE EARTH,
THE PHYSICAL REALM:
MY BODY,
MY HOME
MY LOVED ONES

A BIT MORE
ABOUT ME,
I WAS BORN
A QUADRUPLE
GEMINI ♡
(SUN-RISING-MOON-
MERCURY),
ON MAY 22, 1993



LIMINAL SPACE

I WAS ATTRACTED
BY THE LIGHTS
ON MY BIKE RIDE HOME
FROM THE STUDIO

WINTER 2021

/

EPILOGUE

FEELING
A LOT

SELF-PORTRAIT AT MY STUDIO

I ENTERED THIS
WINTER SEASON
WITH A SENSE OF
CALM & PURPOSE, BUT
OUR PROVINCE WAS ALSO
ABOUT TO ENTER A
VERY LONG, VERY STRICT
COVID CURFEW - COMBINED
WITH OUR DARKEST,
COLDEST MONTHS

MEMORIES OF SNOW

MAKING ELABORATE ICE CASTLES FOR THE FAIRIES

BUILDING SNOW FORTS IN THE SCHOOLYARD

↳ OFTEN WAS A GENDER-BASED PLAY - THE "GIRLS" FORT VS "BOYS" FORT

AS I GOT OLDER,
SNOW OFTEN FELT
MORE LIKE AN OBSTACLE-
YET I KNOW DEEP DOWN,
IT HOLDS THE MOST PRECIOUS
- MAGIC

HOLDING ON TO THAT FEELING
FUZZY

IMPLEMENTING LIGHT & COLOUR IN MY LIFE AS THERAPY FOR DARK DAYS

LUCKY'S APARTMENT

THE FIRST PICTURE
OF 2021

THE LAST PICTURE OF 2020

CHAMPAGNE-FLAVOURED
KIT-KATS &
FAYGO SODA,
LOTTERY WE DIDN'T WIN

THE SEASONS
KEEP RETURNING,
EACH MORE
BEAUTIFULLY
COMPLEX
THAN THE
LAST

& WITH ITS CHALLENGES, OFFERING NEW PERSPECTIVES

SELF-PORTRAIT WITH NINA
ON MY 3-YEAR TESTOSTERONE
ANNIVERSARY ♡

APRIL 20, 2021

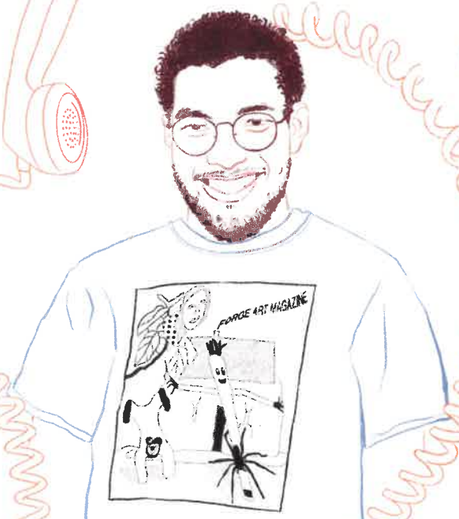
AND SO
THE STORY
GOES ON

XOXO
LARRY

THE FOLLOWING IS A
TRANSCRIBED CONVERSATION
BETWEEN MYSELF AND MY FRIEND
MATTHEW JAMES-WILSON

THAT TOOK PLACE OVER
SEVERAL PHONE CALLS
THROUGHOUT 2020

FOUNDER OF HEAVY MANNERS LIBRARY
WRITER, MUSICIAN, CREATIVE DIRECTOR
& EDITOR OF FORGE ART MAG



*SHIRT DESIGN BY BRIE MORENO

MATTHEW:
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR YOUNGER/OLDER SELF WOULD THINK LOOKING AT THIS BOOK? \ FEEL

ME:
GRATEFUL & CONTENT. I THINK IT'LL BE A VERY INTERESTING TIME CAPSULE - IT'S BEEN A MEANINGFUL PERIOD IN MY LIFE, BUT ALSO GLOBALLY, AS WE ALL WENT THROUGH COVID-19 PANDEMIC MANDATES & EXPERIENCED LARGE-SCALE SHIFTS IN CONSCIOUSNESS.

MATTHEW:
HOW HAVE YOU CREATED A SENSE OF COMFORT AROUND HOW MUCH VULNERABILITY YOU ALLOW YOURSELF TO OFFER THROUGH YOUR WORK?

ME:
IT'S BEEN AN ONGOING PROCESS. WHEN I WAS 17-18, I MADE A SIMILAR PROJECT, USING SELF-PORTRAITURE TO DOCUMENT A FLARE UP OF MY KIDNEY ILLNESS. I WAS ~~USING~~ PHOTOGRAPHING HOW MY BODY WAS CHANGING DAY TO DAY, MY URINE TEST STRIPS, THE DIFFERENT COLOURS ON THEM - BUT IT WAS A PERSONAL PRACTICE, I DIDN'T SEE YET HOW THESE IMAGES COULD RESONATE AS PART OF A LARGER PRACTICE

BUT WORKING ON PUBERTY ALLOWED ME TO SEE THE PROCESS OF SELF-DOCUMENTATION AS SOMETHING THAT IS WORTHY OF BEING THOUGHT OF AS ART / IT ALLOWED ME TO LOOK AT THE MORE MUNDANE MOMENTS AS HAVING EQUAL VALUE AS THE MORE DAZZLING MOMENTS

THROUGH ME LOVING MYSELF, I'M INVITING THE VIEWER TO LOVE THEMSELVES & THESE MOMENTS IN THEIR LIFE TOO.

*SHIRT DESIGN BY GENEVIEVE DARLING

ILLUSTRATIONS BY NINA DREW

MATTHEW:

WERE THERE ANY PHOTOS THAT FELT LIKE A TURNING POINT WHEN YOU MADE THEM?

ME:

THE FIRST IMAGE IN THE BOOK- WHERE I'M RECLINING ON THE ORANGE COUCH - THAT ONE I MADE AT NIGHT, IT'S A LONG EXPOSURE USING MY COMPUTER SCREEN AND A CANDLE AS THE ONLY LIGHT SOURCES. IT HELPED ME REALIZE I COULD HAVE FUN WITH LIGHTING IN A NEW WAY; SOME DAYS IT CAN BE REALLY UNSTAGED/MESSY, BUT SOME DAYS I CAN BE PLAYFUL WITH IT & MAKE THE MOST OUT THE LIGHT SOURCES OF LIGHT AROUND MY HOUSE.

MATTHEW:

I LOVE HOW THE STILL LIFE PHOTOS SORT OF FUNCTION AS SELF-PORTRAITS STILL- HOW DID YOU APPROACH THESE IMAGES IN THE BOOK?

ME:

I CREATED THE STILL LIFE IMAGES WANTING TO LOOK AT SELF-PORTRAITURE FROM A HOLISTIC PERSPECTIVE - NOT ONLY MY OWN PHYSICALITY, BUT ALSO WHAT I SEE & EXPERIENCE ON A DAILY BASIS.

THE STILL LIVES ARE JUST AS MUCH-INTIMATE, VULNERABLE, AND REVEALING MOMENTS.

MATTHEW:

WHAT HAS IT BEEN LIKE TO REVISIT MOMENTS FROM THE PAST TWO YEARS AND HOW YOU WERE FEELING AT THE TIME?

MATTHEW:

I IMAGINE THE PAST YEAR OF THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN DIFFERENT SINCE THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC SET IN - WHAT IMPACT DID THAT HAVE ON HOW THE MORE RECENT IMAGES WERE CREATED?

ME:

WHEN I FIRST STARTED THE PROJECT IN JAN 2019, IT WASN'T SO LARGE SCALE- I WAS JUST TRYING THINGS OUT - IN HINDSIGHT, EVERY SEASON VERY MUCH HAS ITS OWN VISUAL MOOD & ENERGY REFLECTING WHATEVER I WAS GOING THROUGH AT THAT TIME.

ME:

IT FELT DIFFERENT AT THE START of QUARANTINE; LUCKY WAS STAYING WITH US, SO OUR HOUSEHOLD WAS FOUR PEOPLE TOGETHER 24/7, NON-STOP FOR FOUR MONTHS. I HAD A LOT LESS ALONE-TIME, AND THAT FELT LIKE THE BIGGEST SHIFT. WE'RE IN LOCKDOWN HERE AGAIN AND I'M FEELING THE NEED TO ITCH PHOTOGRAPH OUTSIDE. I'M GRATEFUL I CONTINUED THE PROJECT THROUGH ALL THIS BUT IT'S ALSO LED ME TO FEEL EASILY BURNED-OUT, BECAUSE THERE IS SO LITTLE SEPARATION BETWEEN MYSELF & THE WORK. I AM REALLY HAPPY WITH THE IMAGES I CREATED IN QUARANTINE THOUGH, AND THEY SERVED AS A GREAT EMOTIONAL OUTLET.

MATTHEW:

GENDER IS A TOPIC YOU'VE EXAMINED WITHIN YOUR WORK FOR A LONG TIME - WHAT INFORMED YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF GENDER GROWING UP / OVER TIME?

ME:

WHAT COMES TO MIND IS MY OBSESSION WITH EMO/SCENE SUBCULTURES THAT EMERGED IN MY EARLY TEEN YEARS. I WAS FASCINATED WITH PEOPLE WHO WERE BREAKING OUT OF THE BINARY; AVRIL LAVIGNE, DEV HYNES, GERARD WAY - THEY WERE MY IDOLS. I FEEL LIKE A LOT OF EMO WAS ABOUT PLAYING WITH GENDER, BUT WE HADN'T GOTTEN TO A POINT WHERE WE WERE ARTICULATING IT THAT WAY YET.

IN LATER TEEN YEARS, I WAS THINKING MORE ABOUT GENDER THROUGH TUMBLR - IT WAS THE ERA OF ONLINE FEMINISM, AND THE RISE OF ROOKIE MAG. I CAME OUT AS QUEER ON TUMBLR AND LEARNING ABOUT MY HISTORY FELT IMPORTANT. I SPENT A LOT OF TIME LOOKING AT QUEER PHOTO BOOKS AT THE LIBRARY. I REMEMBER STREAMING THE FIRST SEASON OF RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE WHEN IT FIRST CAME OUT, AND WATCHING BUT I'M A CHEERLEADER

MATTHEW:

YEAH I LOVE THAT MOVIE! SUCH A GREAT FILM FOR PORTRAYING THE 1990s CONVERSATION AROUND GENDER, AND THE HYPOCRISY OF PEOPLE TRYING TO DENY OTHER PEOPLE'S GENDER EXPRESSION.

ME:

IT REALLY HOLDS UP! TO ME, A BIG PART OF THE EARLY 2010s TUMBLR CULTURE WAS ABOUT LOOKING BACK AT ALL THESE 1990s & 2000s PORTRAYALS & MOMENTS ABOUT GENDER AND QUEERNESS.

I REMEMBER WATCHING PARIS IS BURNING FOR THE FIRST TIME AROUND THEN - & SIMULTANEOUSLY COMING INTO MY OWN QUEER+TRANS FAMILY, SURROUNDING MYSELF WITH FOLKS WHO ALLOWED ME TO FIND COMFORT IN THESE PARTS OF MY IDENTITY.

THESE ELEMENTS CAME INTO MY LIFE LATER ON BUT, GROWING UP I FEEL GENDER, AS AN IDEA, WAS PREVALENT BUT RARELY EVER DISCUSSED OUTWARDLY. BINARIES

I FELT THERE WAS A LOT OF MISUNDERSTANDING AROUND HOW RAPID THAT PROCESS (HRT/TRANSITION) IS - I WANTED TO DEMISTIFY THAT, AND SHOW THE SLOWNESS OF IT.

MATTHEW:

WHAT HAS IT BEEN LIKE TO PHOTOGRAPH YOURSELF AS YOUR BODY WAS GOING THROUGH PHYSICAL/HORMONAL CHANGES?

ME:

IT'S A REALLY PERSONAL AND INDIVIDUAL PROCESS - SOME PEOPLE LOVE BEING PHOTOGRAPHED, SOME PEOPLE HATE IT - TRANS OR NOT. WITH THIS PROJECT, I FELT CALLED TO GIVE ACCESS TO THAT TRANSITIONAL PERIOD THAT IS RARELY GIVEN ACCESS TO - FOR ANYONE WHO MAY BE CURIOUS TO LEARN WHAT THE DAILY ROUTINES OF TRANSITION CAN LOOK LIKE. THAT WAS MY OWN DECISION TO SHARE, AND IT DOESN'T REFLECT ON ANY OTHER TRANS PERSON'S CHOICES+PRIVACY. I FEEL COMFORTABLE SHARING, SO I FELT - I MIGHT AS WELL!

MATTHEW:

I FEEL THAT BECAUSE OF HOW OPEN + COMFORTABLE YOU ARE IN THIS PROJECT, THERE ARE A LOT OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE TO SEE THEMSELVES IN THE PHOTOS - THE WORK IS REALLY PERSONAL, YET IT IS ALSO RELATABLE TO SO MANY PEOPLE'S LIVES.

ME:

I HOPE THIS PROJECT HELPS MORE PEOPLE FEEL COMFORTABLE WITH TALKING ABOUT THE IN-BETWEEN MOMENTS IN [TRANS] EXISTENCE. ~~INSTEAD~~ I WANT TO THINK ABOUT TRANSITION AS AN ONGOING, LIFE-LONG PROCESS ~

ME:

THAT'S A BIG GOAL WITH THIS PROJECT FOR SURE - TO THINK ABOUT THE AUDIENCE IN A REALLY BROAD SENSE.

THE STORY IS FOR EVERYONE - THERE ARE MOMENTS THAT TRANS FOLKS MIGHT RELATE TO IN A DEEPER SENSE, AND THOSE CONNECTIONS WITH MY COMMUNITY ARE REALLY IMPORTANT TO ME, HOWEVER IN A LARGER SENSE, THE IMAGES EXIST FOR ANYONE TO CONNECT WITH IN WHATEVER WAY FEELS MEANINGFUL TO THEM.

MATTHEW:

SOMETHING THAT'S SO POWERFUL ABOUT PHOTOGRAPHY IS ITS CAPACITY TO PRESERVE PRIVATE MOMENTS FOR A MUCH LARGER AUDIENCE TO WITNESS - HOW DO YOU APPROACH MAINTAINING/ SACRIFICING SOME OF YOUR PRIVACY?

ME:

IT'S GIVEN ME MORE CONFIDENCE IN SELF-PORTRAITURE AS A VIABLE ARTISTIC PRACTICE. I FEEL LESS LIKE I HAVE TO PROVE MYSELF. USING SELF-PORTRAITURE AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN MY LIFE & THE AUDIENCE'S HAS BEEN VERY REWARDING, SO I PLAN TO CONTINUE ON CREATING MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE THIS LIFE OF MINE ♡ TO FOSTER LOVE & CONNECTIONS

ME:

THAT GOES BACK TO THE FACT THAT THIS IS A SELF-DIRECTED PROJECT - I WOULDN'T FEEL -AS- COMFORTABLE WITH SOMEONE ELSE BECAUSE IT IS SO INTIMATE.

IT FEELS REALLY GOOD BECAUSE IT'S MY OWN STORY, AND I'M TELLING IT WHEN/WHERE/HOWEVER I WANT. MORE THAN ANYTHING, THIS PROJECT IS ABOUT RECLAIMING AUTONOMY OVER MY BODY AND NARRATIVE AS A TRANS PERSON ♡

MATTHEW:

WHAT DID YOU LEARN THROUGH THIS PROJECT THAT WILL STICK WITH YOU?

MATTHEW:

I THINK, FOR THAT REASON TOO, THIS PROJECT AND TIME PERIOD WILL BE REALLY INTERESTING IN THE CONTINUUM OF TRANS REPRESENTATION IN ART AND MEDIA. YOUNG QUEER PEOPLE CAN HAVE SUCH A DIFFERENT RELATIONSHIP TO HOW THEY SEE THEMSELVES THAN PREVIOUS GENERATION COULD. I FEEL THAT YOUR WORK REFLECTS THE IMPORTANCE OF THAT CHANGE, AS IT IS HAPPENING.

ME:

~~I ALSO THINK~~ THERE IS SO MUCH AMAZING SELF-REPRESENTATION HAPPENING IN THE WORLD RIGHT NOW - THE EMPHASIS ON ARTISTS WHO ARE TELLING THEIR OWN PERSONAL NARRATIVES REFLECTS A WIDER SOCIETAL TREND/NEED, TO CONNECT AND SHARE, ARCHIVE OUR SELVES.

♡ THANK YOU ♡

♡ JENNIFER YOFFEY
FOR YOUR TRUST AND PATIENCE

♡ TUCKER CAPPARELL
FOR YOUR HELP WITH GETTING THIS BOOK TO PRINT

♡ CHLOE SCHEFFE
FOR DESIGNING THE COVER + END PAGES AND FOR COMMISSIONING ME TO PHOTOGRAPH MEXICO CITY

MATTHEW,
FOR ALL THE GREAT CHATS,
+ YOUR TIME AND ENERGY IN TRANSCRIBING THEM!

+ ANNIE FLANAGAN
EMILY KEEGIN
FOR MENTORING ME THROUGH THIS PROCESS,
AND DANIELLA ZALCMAN
+ MALLORY BENEDICT
FOR FACILITATING THESE CONNECTIONS ♡

* JASA BAKA
FOR ALL YOUR HELP PHYSICAL + SPIRITUAL WHILE CREATING IMAGES IN ICELAND

* KRISTJAN + TÁTA
FOR DRIVING ME AROUND ICELAND AND BEING A WONDERFUL HOST!

NAOMI SEDGWICK
AND FELIX DE N'YEURT
FOR BEING MY CHEERLEADERS AS I NEARED THE FINISH LINE

ARLETTE, FOR HOSTING US IN KANEHSATÀ:KE

ARNO, FOR HOSTING ME IN PARIS

THIS BOOK WAS CREATED WITH THE SUPPORT OF
* GETTY IMAGES
* KOYAMA GIVES
* LUCIE FOUNDATION

MY PARENTS,
FOR PUTTING ME ON THIS EARTH, CARING FOR ME WHEN I WAS ILL, AND SHOWING ME ART AS A COPING MECHANISM

ROCHELLE,
MY MYSTERIOUS ROOMMATE
LOVE YOU!

MADDIE
FOR THE FUN HANGS ♡

BILLY,
FOR SHOWING ME THE MEANING OF ABUNDANCE ♥

LUCKY, TRIXIE,
AND ELIZA, FOR WELCOMING ME + NINA INTO THE FAMILY ALWAYS

NINA AND VASHTI
FOR LOVING ME AND ALWAYS SHOWING UP FOR ME ♡

CAM AND SPENCER
FOR YOUR FRIENDSHIP & ASSISTANCE

SPECIAL THANKS TO MY SPIRIT GUIDES,
ESPECIALLY HELENE & GILLES,
WHOSE ENERGIES I FELT GUIDING ME AS I WAS COLOUR RETOUCHING & WRITING THIS BOOK ♡

+ MICHELE BARDEAUX, LARRY AND VIV,
FOR ALL THE LESSONS YOU'VE TAUGHT ME

TO SHAHIR,
FOR GIFTING ME WITH THE PRESENCE OF VASHTI

THANK YOU

MY PATRONS:
KIT, STUPIDJUICEBABY,
EMILY, DANIELLE,
MALAIKA, CATHERINE,
HOBBES, ALEXANDRIA,
ICNELLY, JENNIFER,
MEAGAN, MARIE,
AUGUSTA, SHELBY,
KAYLEIGH, BILLY, DAPHNE,
JMO, THOM, VILMA, LEE,
SALON UNLISTD, CATALINA,
S., KATE, RAY, CATO,
NICOLETTE, LINDSEY, ELLA,
MARGO, JAMIE, DOUXEROSE,
MADELEINE, SARAH!,
CLOUDY, LIV & JILL ♡

TO EVERY QUEER, TRANS,
GENDER-NON-CONFORMING
PERSON WHO PAVED
THE WAY FOR THIS BOOK
TO EXIST-
AND TO EACH OF YOU
NOW, FOR LOVING YOURSELF
AND EACH OTHER,
PAST AND ♡
FUTURE ANCESTORS

MY GRATEFULNESS
TO YOU ALL IS
ETERNAL ❀

NC-22